

Jackson County Fire District 3

8383 Agate Road
White City, OR 97503-1075
(541) 826-7100 (Office)
(541) 826-4566 (Fax)
www.jcfd3.com



January 30, 2016

Chair Mitch Greenlick
House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4030 and conceptual amendments

Dear Chair Greenlick and the House Committee on Health Care:

Jackson County Fire District 3 provides fire and rescue services to three cities and a large rural area in Southern Oregon. The District operates as a special district with an elected five member Board of Directors. Our funding is almost exclusively from local property taxes. The District does not bill for our EMS services. We are grateful that you are considering HB 4030 along with the conceptual amendments and offer our full support for this bill.

District 3 provides paramedic level engine based response to a community of over 51,000 people from eight fire stations. Across the District, we are on scene prior to the private ambulance transport company 73% of the time. Crews from our fire stations in the more rural areas are on scene before the ambulance as much as 94% of the time. During our community based strategic planning process last year we had a cross section of over 40 community members strongly reinforce that they want us to continue providing our paramedic level EMS response throughout our District. They recognize that this is a significant cost for the community but believe it is a key part of the EMS system here in Southern Oregon.

Our elected Board of Directors look forward to improving the level of service in our community through the reimbursement. This will assist us with medical supplies, physician oversight, and an improved level of quality assurance and EMS training. These are the key areas we have identified through strategic planning that we can improve in our District's EMS program.

Thank you again and we urge you to support HB 4030 and its conceptual amendments.

Respectfully,

Dan Petersen, Fire Chief
Jackson County Fire District 3