
25030 SW Parkway Ave. Suite 330
Wilsonville, OR 97070
Phone: (888) 846-5741 | Fax: (503) 299-4760
www.ofca.org

OREGON
Fire Marshals
ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2017

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capital
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2183 Relating to oversight of health care facility structural requirements

Dear Chairman Holvey and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue. The Oregon Fire Marshals Association (OFMA) stands in opposition to the proposed legislation titled HB 2183. Three key points are listed below.

HB 2183 could eliminate local fire safety control and interaction between fire protection agencies and local building departments. This bill provides capability for the Building Codes Division to take construction review and inspections away from local fire *and* building departments. Many local fire officials have staff who work directly with their local building departments to review plans and inspect fire safety features of construction for health care facilities. These cooperation's exist to provide simultaneous review of projects and provide input and expertise on issues related to emergency response, fire safety, and fire suppression. This leads to the highest level of safety and protection possible for each structure.

The fire service was not involved during the crafting of this proposed bill. It is unreasonable to remove fire safety rule enforcement from local agencies and the State Fire Marshal. And further, it is unsafe to do so without consulting the fire service for input on the ramifications of such a proposal. Fire safety issues concerning the vulnerable populations occupying health care facilities must involve trained, knowledgeable, and experienced fire safety professionals to ensure the highest level of safety to those occupying these facilities. Fire agencies protecting these facilities should have been identified as key stakeholders early during the crafting of this proposed bill as we will be the ones asked to enter these facilities when an emergency occurs.

HB 2183 is unnecessary and ill timed. With the outcome of SB 886 from the 2015 session, combined with the workgroup led by the Governor's Office, and the Coraggio Report recommendations being implemented through a collaborative process, HB 2183 is a premature duplication of previous legislation.

We urge the Chair and Committee to not allow this bill to move forward. We request the Chair encourage the proponents to work collaboratively with the agencies and stakeholders who are actively implementing the recommendations established in the Coraggio Report.

Respectfully,

John Patterson
Board of Directors
Second Vice President