

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony, as delivered during the committee meeting earlier today.

Good afternoon members of the Committee. I would like to thank you for making time on today's agenda to allow me to provide background in support on SB 456, the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA). The purpose of SB 456 is to enact REPLICA in Oregon, therefore providing proper legal protection, standardized practices and accountability for licensed EMS personnel when crossing state lines and to ensure enhanced public protection.

Interstate compacts are formal agreements between two or more states established to address specific concerns shared by those states. Currently, Oregon is a member of 30 compacts. In this case, the specific concern that REPLICA seeks to remedy is the inability of individual EMS personnel licensed by one state to practice in other states and to address a significant gap related to the sharing of license and discipline related information amongst state regulatory bodies.

In 2012, the National Association of State EMS Officials convened a National Advisory Panel to explore an EMS licensure interstate compact. From there, a 13 member, multi-disciplinary Drafting Team with assistance from the Council of State Government's, Center for Interstate Compacts, met and drafted the compact language that is before you in SB456.

A general overview and the purpose of the compact is found Article 1, SB456. I would like to highlight a few of the advantages REPLICA would provide Oregon.

- Oregon will gain new authority over EMS personnel from other compact states when practicing in your state and you will know who is crossing your borders.
 - Under REPLICA, Oregon maintains full authority over its licensed providers.
 - Your Office of EMS would gain access to a national licensure database. With this database your EMS Office would know if individuals licensed in your state are also licensed in other states. Furthermore, you would gain information related to license discipline taken in other states. This is of vital importance for public protection.
 - EMS professionals licensed in Oregon will gain a privilege to practice in other member states.

- The EMS compact extends a **privilege to practice** for EMS personnel. It's important for me to clarify that REPLICA does not address ambulance service agencies.

- Another example of how REPLICA will help arises out of the Wildland fires that Oregon faces. While some wildland fire seasons are much worse than others, one thing that remains constant is a high demand for EMS personnel to staff fires. REPLICA will make the process nearly seamless, as it will allow EMS personnel from other compact states to practice EMS in support of the wildland fire teams. REPLICA strengthens and compliments your existing mechanisms by requiring appropriate EMS medical direction and REPLICA strengthens the ability of your Office of EMS collaborate with other state regulators nationwide.
- REPLICA validates our commitment to veterans and their spouses by creating an expedited pathway to licensure. This is an area that we take seriously and do everything we can to make the transition from military to civilian EMS as quick and painless as possible.

In closing, in order for Oregon, its EMS personnel and patients to realize the benefits of REPLICA, the Legislature must enact legislation that makes Oregon a REPLICA “member state”. Oregon already utilizes the NREMT for its initial licensure exam and requires background checks for EMS personnel. Today there are seven REPLICA states, with our eighth state sending it on to the Governors desk this week. We need ten states to stand up the compact. It is my hope that Oregon will move forward, pass REPLICA bringing about the protection your providers need, lessen the burden felt when managing multiple licenses and support the advancement of the EMS profession. As Idaho is already a REPLICA state, there would be immediate benefit along one of Oregon’s underserved borders.

Respectfully,

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National Registry of EMTs

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