

February 20, 2017

The Oregon House of Representatives  
Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I apologize that I am unable to testify at the hearing on February 21<sup>st</sup> for HB 2574, but I am writing in support of this bill, which would require the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to identify strategies for improving emergency preparedness education for Oregonians.

I am the Team Leader for the South Tillamook County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a FEMA program that trains volunteers to help their community in a disaster, as well as whenever local public safety officials need assistance. You may access our website at <http://www.southtillamookcert.org/>.

I am also my Neighborhood Captain for the "Map Your Neighborhood program," which prepares neighbors to help each other in a disaster; see: ([http://depoebaycert.org/resources/GettingPrepared/docs/Map\\_Your\\_Neighborhood.pdf](http://depoebaycert.org/resources/GettingPrepared/docs/Map_Your_Neighborhood.pdf)). In both capacities, I have learned the importance of individuals and families preparing for major storms, floods, fires, and earthquakes. Living on the Oregon Coast, I am particularly aware of the need for earthquake preparedness.

It is well known that schoolchildren can have an impact on their parents' actions, as was the case with the anti-smoking campaigns. Teaching our children how to help their families prepare for disasters would be critical to the education campaign envisioned in this bill, as would teaching older students basic first aid. Using Oregon businesses, health care providers and major events for outreach to all ages would also be productive. There are many resources already available on emergency preparedness; the challenge is getting that information to our citizens in an effective and consistent manner.

I congratulate Rep. Gomberg for his foresight in drafting this bill, and I encourage the members of the Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee to pass it out unanimously.

Best Regards,

*Jean*

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