

February 11, 2019

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Healthcare Committee:

I am writing you to state my opposition to SB 452.

As background, I am the EMS Medical Director of two large counties in the State of Oregon. Previously, I served as Oregon's first State EMS/Trauma Medical Director and have been President of the National Association of EMS Physicians.

This bill sets a dangerous precedent of practicing medical care directly through state statute. EMS supervising physicians/medical director practice medicine through the creation of protocols, providing training and overseeing quality improvement. Oregon, like most states, does not have statewide EMS protocols and requiring the state to develop one based on a specific disease is a usurpation of medical practice. It is unlikely that the state legislature would be willing or able to maintain the ability to keep current on medical practice on the myriad of disease and conditions that EMS practitioners care for on a daily basis.

Additionally, the bill aims to solve a problem that does not exist. Paramedics are already permitted to deliver medication that the patient or family provides. Some of our rural or remote areas may not have paramedics available to them. The solution is to not create a special carve out for a specific illness but to build an EMS system that funds and encourages advanced care throughout the State – so that all may benefit.

While I am understanding of the unique needs of patients with rare disorders, this solution does not appropriately address concerns and is bad precedent and policy.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with any further questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Sahni', written in a cursive style.

Ritu Sahni, MD, MPH, FAEMS