



TO: Chair Evans
Members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

FR: Shawn Baird
President, Oregon State Ambulance Association
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RE: Support for HB 2138

The Oregon State Ambulance Association (OSAA) is a consortium of public, private, non-profit and volunteer-based EMS providers. Our members provide both ground and air transports and provide EMS coverage for much of the State.

Portions of the most rural parts of our State are served by volunteer EMS providers. These EMTs and Paramedics often pay out of pocket for their training and continuing education, and their districts continually report further and further difficulties in recruiting and maintaining providers.

This tax credit, albeit small, is one tool that volunteer-based districts are able to use as an incentive for the volunteers who forego time with their families in order to respond to rural Oregonians facing emergencies.

As such, the OSAA respectfully urges your support of HB 2138, which will extend this important tax credit an additional six years.