



SOUTH LANE COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

"Making a Positive Difference in the Community through Service to others"

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Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

The Oregon Fire Service is called upon to provide emergency medical services to people regardless of their infectious status. Unfortunately, our Emergency Medical Technician receives exposures to patients blood and other bodily fluids each year. Normally we can get consent from patients after an occupational exposure to draw blood to determine their infectious status. There are times that this is not possible, and emergency medical providers are placed in a position that requires that they assume a patient was positive for infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C. This often then requires the medical provider to be prescribed a regiment of liver-toxic prophylaxis medications that can cause permanent liver damage. With the passage of Senate Bill 1027, this may not always be necessary, as patients who are not able to consent to the testing could have their blood drawn and infectious disease status determined. This step would remove the need for medical providers who have been exposed to blood and bodily fluids from taking the prophylaxis drugs for exposures from patients with an unknown infectious status. Currently, it takes almost four business days to obtain a court order to perform an infectious diseases determinant blood draw from patients who more than likely would have consented if they were able to do so. I ask that you support SB 1027, an important step to protect our first responders and their families.

Joe Raade

Division Chief/Paramedic, South Lane County Fire & Rescue

President, Oregon EMS Section of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

PROUDLY SERVING THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH LANE COUNTY