



Testimony in Support: HB 2910
House Committee on Health Care
March 23, 2021
Genoa Ingram

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA), formed in 1950, serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards, who serve without compensation, are responsible for the financial and management oversight of rural fire protection districts.

The OFDDA supports HB 2910 as a method of leveling the playing field for reimbursements to all providers of emergency services. During the 2016 legislative session, OFDDA also supported HB 4030, the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) legislation. At that time the intent was for EMS providers to access higher Medicaid reimbursements through GEMT. We did not differentiate between private, public, non-profit, volunteer, or hospital-based providers and did not anticipate that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would approve the program for public providers only.

HB 2910 corrects that inequity and allows access to the higher reimbursement formula that was intended under GEMT. We have reviewed HB 2910 which is patterned after California's successful legislation and offer our support of the bill along with the -1 amendment.

The OFDDA is a collaborative organization that has worked closely in the past with the Oregon State Ambulance Association and we are happy to lend our support to our emergency services partners. HB 2910 will close the gap on reimbursements for Medicaid calls and place all providers on an equal footing.

We appreciate the opportunity to place our comments on the record and we encourage your support.