



February 8, 2021

**House Committee on Judiciary: House Bill 2650**

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice-Chair Power and Other Committee Members:

We support the merits behind House Bill 2650. Providing basic lifesaving measures to an injured police dog and transporting the animal to a veterinary emergency hospital for immediate care is critical for the patient. However, we are concerned with the word “treatment” in this legislation, which implies providing veterinary care to an injured police dog beyond the scope of an EMS provider’s training and expertise.

Such attempts for treatment of an injured police dog at the scene can delay the more effective and lifesaving treatment at a veterinary facility. In most of Oregon, an injured animal is rarely more than 30 minutes to 1 hour away from a veterinary facility and appropriate help. This fits within the timeframe of the “golden hour” of recommended time for treatment of most trauma.

We can support HB 2650 with adoption of an amendment that limits an EMS provider to “transport and apply basic lifesaving measures limited to CPR, oxygen support, controlling external bleeding, and applying bandages.”

With this in mind, we suggest the following amendment for your consideration:

**Proposed amendment – Oregon Veterinary Medical Association**

SECTION 2. (1) Notwithstanding any local law to the contrary, an emergency medical services provider may provide emergency transportation or [treatment] **apply basic lifesaving measures limited to CPR, oxygen support, controlling external bleeding, and applying bandages** to a police dog that is injured in the line of duty, provided that such transportation or [treatment] **basic lifesaving measures** does not delay or otherwise interfere with the emergency transportation or treatment of any human.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Tim*

Timothy McCarty, DVM, PhD, DACVS - President

