TO: Co-Chairs Lieber and Nosse

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on

Human Services

FR: Dan Brattain

President, Oregon State Ambulance

Re: Support of OHA Public Health Division, EMS & Trauma

Systems Office

HB 5024

The Oregon State Ambulance Association (OSAA) is the only statewide ambulance association representing all of Oregon's diverse emergency medical services (EMS) providers. Our membership includes public fire department-based providers, private providers, volunteer-based providers, and non-profit providers. Our members provide ground and air emergency transports across the State, and many participate in innovative programs like community paramedicine/mobile integrated health programs.

We offer supportive comments about the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division, particularly the EMS & Trauma Systems Office, which licenses EMS providers in this State. EMS, like all other facets of the healthcare provider community, saw significant changes to the way that we provide care to Oregonians with the onset of COVID-19. OHA's Public Health Division, particularly the EMS & Trauma Systems office, was and continues to be very helpful and responsive to our members' needs as we all navigate this pandemic. The thoughtful work that OHA's EMS office has done throughout 2020 cannot be overstated and includes important actions like multi-state license reciprocity to ensure that Oregon's EMS system stood at the ready for any COVID-19 surge.

OSAA's partnership and appreciation for the OHA EMS & Trauma Systems office spans far before the COVID-19 pandemic. OSAA members meet quarterly, and representatives from the OHA EMS & Trauma Systems office are present at nearly every one of our meetings to provide updates, answer questions, and work collaboratively with our membership to solve problems as they arise.

We are thankful for the collaborative nature of our relationship with the OHA Public Health EMS & Trauma Systems office to-date and look forward to continuing this relationship as we all strive to ensure that Oregonians have access to the highest quality EMS care.



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