



May 3, 2021

**Hearing: Senate Committee on Health Care
House Bill 2650-A (Support)**

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Committee Members:

House Bill 2650-A allows EMS providers to transport a K9 Officer to a veterinary facility if the animal is injured during the line of duty. These dogs help to protect and serve our communities, while often putting their lives at risk, and we believe we have an obligation to support them as best we can. That's why the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports this legislation.

As an aside, we worked with Rep. Bill Post (sponsor) and Darrin Campbell of Working Dogs Oregon on the amendment that clarified some minor uncertainty in the original wording of the legislation. Since this discussion, we have coordinated with Working Dogs Oregon to develop a training program for EMS providers and K9 police dog handlers on pre-hospital treatment that could protect these working dogs if injured during their service to our communities. Our first program is scheduled for this July in Eugene, and we look forward to provide similar training opportunities across Oregon.

We ask you to join us in supporting our K9 Officers with your approval of House Bill 2650-A.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb, Executive Director

