

Submitter: Alan Patterson  
On Behalf Of: TREASURE VALLEY PARAMEDICS  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB60

I have been a paramedic in the Malheur County region (recently retired) for 38 years. In 1994 I was grandfathered into Oregon lacking an associated degree. The associate degree policy has been a problem since the very beginning. In eastern Oregon Malheur county is the one most impacted. A number of Idaho schools offer a certificate in Paramedicine, but it does not include an associate degree. This does not allow them to work in Oregon and in turn hinders our ability to hire in the immediate area. Treasure Valley Paramedics sponsored a Paramedic scholarship program at TVCC for 25,000 to perpetuate annually to fill the staffing need. This will not produce results for another year because of location and setting up the hospital requirements. The associate degree mandate creates a dangerous situation in that we cannot sufficiently staff the ambulances for the constituent's safety they deserve. Thank you, Alan S Patterson,  
HELP IS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY