

My name is Darrek Mullins, and I am very much opposed to SB 30. I received my Paramedic Certificate from the state of Oregon in 1996; 27 years ago. I have been working full time since 1998.

Why do we want to go backwards? Why do we want to dumb down our EMS profession and providers in Oregon? We are just now getting some level of recognition and respect from the medical community to our profession coming out of a pandemic. There are shortages of medical professionals in all fields, yet there are no cries to decrease their educational requirements. How about nursing? Nurses cannot do anything really unless they have orders from a doctor. Paramedics are making critical decisions and treating patients based on assessments and require critical thinking skills. These critical thinking skills are where the two-year degree help develop them. I, by no means, was ready for this when I first entered the field with my one-year certificate. It took me at least two years in the field after working with other experienced medics to have that knowledge and confidence. Nobody is talking about decreasing Nursing education requirements with the shortages we are having, because they need it just as much as Paramedic's. The medicine of today demands it.

In Seattle's Medic One program in the early 70's is one of the birth places of Paramedicine, second only to Freedom House in Pittsburgh. The doctors teaching the classes then had their students wear doctors' smocks. The doctors did this because they said that the one-year paramedic class they were teaching was equivalent to the first 4 years of medical school and they deserved to be recognized to that level. They still wear smocks today as a tradition.

Our medicine has advanced and come so far from the days of a one year three term paramedic certificate. Our paramedic textbook(s) have grown to 7-8 book series in the last 30 years. Why would we want to go backwards with education requirements? Maybe we should go back to the time when the local morgues transported you or your loved ones with their CPR card in hand to one of two places. You get the idea.

They say you don't know what you don't know...and anyone who supports this bill, doesn't know. Seriously, the stakes are too high, and our profession demands a higher educated and critical thinking paramedic. It's what I want for me and my family, but what I also want for our state that has one of the best EMS systems in the nation. This bill would wipe that away.

Respectfully,

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