



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 223

Representing
Office, Professional, Medical, Technical and Public Employees
Throughout the State of Oregon and Southwest Washington.



Leslie Sloy
SECRETARY-TREASURER

March 21, 2023

Chair Patterson
Vice Chair Hayden
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

I am writing in opposition to SB 60 as a Business Representative with Teamsters Local Union 223, and on behalf of our over 2300 members of which 450 are employed with American Medical Response (AMR) in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties.

Worker shortages are everywhere, but lowering standards to improve recruitment takes our state in the wrong direction and only degrades the current EMS workforce.

EMS workers are on the front lines of a health care system that is bursting at the seams and would do better if they had even higher standards and more support. Reducing the amount of education required to be a Paramedic would put our communities at greater risk with a lower quality of care that will cost us more in the long term. Oregon families deserve high quality and professional Emergency Medical Services, and SB 60 takes us backward.

Other measures should be taken to recruit more Paramedics into the workforce like the scholarship program at Treasure Valley Community College referenced by Alan Patterson in his letter. Many other states that have lower standards are also experiencing a shortage of Paramedics. The state of Oregon has higher standards and better wages so it's no wonder that Paramedics would want to come here and work if we lowered standards. Let's continue to make being a Paramedic in Oregon a great family wage job and oppose SB 60.

SB 60 is a bad solution to address the shortage of Paramedics in our state and is poor public policy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Cordially,

Austin DePaolo
Business Representative
Teamsters Local 223