

My name is Greg Juzeler and I am opposed to SB 60. I have been a Paramedic for 9 years and in some form of emergency services for nearly 14. I work full time as a Paramedic in Multnomah County and often work in Clackamas County as well. I am also a member of Teamsters Local 223.

The state of Oregon is known for consistently producing some of the best Paramedics in the nation. This is in part due to the educational standards set forth by this state. Paramedic education today is vastly more than what it was in the past. Medical directors are constantly adding tools, medications, and increasing expectations of their Paramedics. There is a shortage in almost every medical field out there. This is not just a problem in Oregon but nationwide. I do not see any other medical profession recommending we lower the standards to attempt to help with recruitment. I believe SB 60 is a step backwards for this profession and this state.

I believe there are many other solutions to these problems we currently face. Solutions to this problem could be awarding grants to community colleges, public scholarships for more people to attend college for paramedicine. Establish EMS providers as part of the Oregon Rural Practitioner Tax Credit Program for paid professionals as well as volunteers and increase those tax credit limits to recruit rural providers. Many other trade schools and professions have paid internships. This could help recruit more into the profession.

As a Paramedic, I believe the medicine that is required today demands higher educational standards. I do not believe going backwards provides a benefit to the profession or to the people that we serve. The citizens that we serve deserve to have higher educated and critical thinking paramedics.

Thank You,

Greg Juzeler