

Submitter: Dale Montgomery  
On Behalf Of: Teamsters Local 223  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB60

I'm am a 20 year paramedic in Portland and I posses the required AAS degree for paramedics. We are licensed health care professionals because of the required degree in our state. Without this license employers have the incentive to offer paramedics lower pay and benefits. We are already suffering a shortage of qualified paramedics in Oregon. Making the job less appealing would only make it harder to find people to become paramedics and disincentivize current providers from staying in the profession. Paramedics need to be able the write and communicate clearly to be a true professional. These are skills obtained through a degree program. Paramedics require more than just medical training. We need reading comprehension, public speaking, writing and math skills. Please don't downgrade our profession just to fill a few open shifts.

Thank you!