

Submitter: Tim VanArsdale  
On Behalf Of: Teamsters 223  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB60

I have been in emergency services for over 23 years, first as a Firefighter/EMT in New Jersey and currently as a Paramedic in Oregon. Both states require a degree prior to licensure and both states offer competitive wages and comprehensive benefit packages. Lowering the education requirements will only diminish the quality care that the communities receive and ultimately lead to unfavorable health outcomes. Moreover, in the long term it will allow employers reduce the wages and benefits that my Union (Teamsters 223) has fought tirelessly to obtain over the past several decades. The field will be even less attractive than it already is, it will NOT foster retention and will increase staffing shortages. What should be done is to improve working conditions and crew safety as well as incentivize longevity and retention.