



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Rep. Rob Nosse, Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee  
Rep. Travis Nelson, Vice-Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee  
Rep. Christine Goodwin, Vice-Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee  
Members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

From: John Turner, MD, FACEP  
OMA Vice Speaker  
Emergency and EMS Physician  
Associate EMS Medical Director, Clackamas County

Date: February 6, 2024

Re: OMA Comments in Support of HB 4081 – EMS Modernization

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The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) would like to offer our strong support for the passage of HB 4081 which will, among many other improvements, create centralized advisory board in charge regulating and monitoring Emergency Medical Services (EMS) statewide.

As a member of the taskforce that produced HB 4081, I want to urge you to support this legislation. Rep. Darcia Grayber led an excellent, collaborative workgroup.

We believe that the time has long past for Oregon to have regional systems of care and standards in Emergency Medical Services. An Oregonian with a heart condition visiting Lincoln City should not have to worry about the level EMS care they will experience should they suffer a medical emergency compared to that of Portland. All of our citizens should feel confident they will receive statewide standardized care when they call 911 with a health crisis.

EMS systems outcomes should be trackable yet, outside of trauma patients, there is no structure in place for other urgent medical patients.

HB 4081 will do the following:

- Establish a State EMS Program to provide consistency in EMS services and better efficiencies in operations.

- Create the Advisory Board Network which will restructure current state-level committees into a centralized advisory board network covering pediatric and behavioral health emergency care as well as EMS time-sensitive emergency outcomes.
- Establish EMS Regions that use the existing Area Trauma Regions structure and align with regional health care standards that use standards of care to create regional plans with local control.
- Create a regulatory framework providing incentives for following standards of care and becoming a regional organization in good standing.
- Develop Integrated Data Systems that have the authority to compile relevant data for performance review, monitoring trends, and improving quality of care without violating HIPAA compliance or a patient's privacy.

The OMA strongly believes HB 4081 will save lives all over the state of Oregon, especially in the most rural communities and minority populations with inequitable access to emergency care. We believe this legislation is overdue as it has gone through many years of consideration in the Oregon legislature, and it is time to act on behalf of our EMS workers and patients.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB 4081.

**The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is the state's largest professional organization engaging in advocacy, policy, community-building, and networking opportunities for Oregon's physicians, physician assistants, medical students, and physician assistant students. The OMA's members speak with one voice as they advocate for policies that improve access to quality patient care, reduce administrative burdens on medical professionals, and improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at [www.theOMA.org](http://www.theOMA.org).**