



To Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Plummer, I am the Division Chief of EMS for Seaside Fire & Rescue located in Seaside, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4156. Our agency serves approximately 8000 full-time residents, and 750,000 annual visitors. Seaside Fire & Rescue responds to roughly 1900-2000 calls for service each year. Of those calls, 70% involve EMS responses, resulting in approximately 1350 patient contacts, and as subcontractor to our local county ambulance service 50-60 transports annually.

The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program has been critical to our ability to provide reliable and timely EMS services. Through GEMT our agency receives approximately \$12,000 annually, which has allowed us to maintain staffing, keep units in service, and offset the rising costs associated with training, equipment, and readiness. Without this funding we would face significant challenges in sustaining our current level of service to our community.

If there were a lapse in GEMT funding due to the absence of HB 4156 our agency would be forced to take immediate and difficult steps to absorb the loss. This would likely include delaying equipment replacement, freezing or reducing staffing, and reallocating funds from other critical operational areas. A total loss of GEMT funding would have an even greater impact, potentially resulting in reduced EMS coverage, longer response times, and an increased financial burden on our local community.

It is important to emphasize that if the federal government continues to allow the current GEMT funding model nothing will change under HB 4156. This bill does not expand or extend state funding; it simply ensures that Oregon can continue to participate in the existing federal program without interruption.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask that you support HB 4156 to help ensure the continued stability and effectiveness of emergency medical services across Oregon.

Sincerely,



Rick Plummer
Division Chief- Seaside Fire & Rescue
503-738-5420