



ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE

Marshall Rasor – Fire Chief

Date: February 3, 2026

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

My name is Marshall Rasor, and I serve as the Fire Chief for Ashland Fire & Rescue (AF&R) in Ashland, Oregon. I am writing in support of House Bill 4156. Our agency provides emergency medical services to approximately **30,000 Oregonians and visitors** in our region, responding to **more than 6,000 calls annually** across **over 600 square miles**. In 2025, **5,128 of those calls were medically related**, making EMS a critical component of our service delivery model.

Participation in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program has had a significant positive impact on our agency. Through GEMT, AF&R received **\$546,612 for calendar year 2023**, and **\$307,622 for the first half of 2024 to date**. This funding has allowed us to maintain **30 dual-role personnel**, and beginning in **July 2023**, add **eight single-role EMS personnel**. These additions have improved our response capabilities and significantly reduced the number of incidents in which no EMS units were immediately available. GEMT funding has directly enabled us to deliver timely, high-quality emergency medical care to our community.

Without GEMT funding—or in the event of a lapse while awaiting legislative action—our agency would be forced to reduce staffing and defer critical equipment replacement. A complete loss of GEMT funding would ultimately compel the City of Ashland to reconsider applying for our current Ambulance Service Area in Jackson County. Such an outcome would result in workforce reductions, the divestment of existing EMS units and equipment, and a measurable reduction in EMS capacity in Southern Oregon—placing both our agency and the communities we serve at risk.

It is important to emphasize that **nothing changes** should the federal government continue to allow the current GEMT funding model. House Bill 4156 simply preserves the existing framework and provides stability for EMS agencies statewide. This bill does **not** extend or increase state funding; rather, it ensures continuity and predictability for local service providers who rely on GEMT to meet essential community needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to support **HB 4156** and the vital emergency medical services it helps sustain across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Marshall Rasor

Fire Chief
Ashland Fire & Rescue

ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE

455 Siskiyou Blvd
Ashland, Oregon 97520
ashland.or.us

Tel: 541.482.2770
Fax: 541.488.5318
TTY: 800.735.2900

marshall.rasor@ashland.or.us

