

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 1060  
Winston, OR 97496

**ADMIN OFFICE**

250 SE Main Street  
Winston, OR 97496

541-673-5503  
541-679-8721

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

My name is Scott Richardson, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4156 and the continued stability of the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program.

Emergency medical service providers in communities like Douglas County serve a large population of Medicare and Medicaid recipients. These communities are often rural or suburban and face persistent economic challenges. As a result, EMS agencies respond to thousands of medical emergencies each year while operating within reimbursement structures that routinely fail to cover the true cost of care.

The GEMT program has been an essential tool in closing this funding gap. GEMT revenues directly support frontline EMS operations by helping agencies retain qualified personnel, replace and maintain medical equipment, and ensure that ambulances are properly stocked and ready to respond. Without this support, many agencies would struggle to sustain current service levels.

Costs associated with EMS delivery, particularly staffing, equipment, and medical supplies, continue to rise far faster than Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates. Absent GEMT funding, this imbalance would worsen, forcing difficult decisions that could include staffing reductions, limits on medical supplies, or changes to service models. Any of these outcomes would negatively affect response times and patient care, especially for the most vulnerable populations.

HB 4156 is a prudent and forward-looking measure. It does not require new state funding, nor does it alter the current GEMT structure if federal policies remain unchanged. Instead, it ensures that alternative pathways are available to preserve uninterrupted GEMT funding should federal rules or methodologies change in the future. This flexibility is critical to maintaining reliable EMS services statewide.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this legislation. I respectfully urge you to support HB 4156.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Richardson".

Scott Richardson  
Deputy Chief