



Lane Fire Authority

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

My name is Chief Dale Borland, and I am writing on behalf of Lane Fire Authority and in support of HB4156. Lane Fire Authority is a special district that provides ALS ambulance transport and fire protection services in the mid-Willamette Valley. We serve just over 30,000 Oregonians, responding to approximately 7,400 calls for service annually, with roughly 85 percent of those calls being medical emergencies. Our service area spans 486 square miles, and we currently operate with two full-time ambulances.

The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program has helped bridge a portion of the gap between the cost of providing ambulance transport services and the reimbursement we receive for those services. Historically, Lane Fire Authority has received between \$300,000 and \$400,000 annually through GEMT. This funding has been critical to our ability to maintain ambulance staffing levels and continue providing timely emergency medical care to our community.

Lane Fire Authority is operating this essential service on a very tight budget, and we anticipate little to no cash carryover into the next fiscal year. Should GEMT funding be lost, we would be unable to absorb that loss within our existing budget. The loss of this funding would likely result in our inability to replace critical EMS equipment and could potentially require a reduction in the number of ambulances available to serve our district.

If the federal government continues to allow the current funding model, no additional state funds are required, and nothing changes operationally. Lane Fire Authority would be able to continue receiving this crucial funding to support the delivery of a critical emergency medical service to Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask for your support of HB 4156, Oregon's ambulance service providers, and the communities we serve.

Respectfully,

Dale Borland
Fire Chief
Lane Fire Authority