



CRESCENT VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

Pride • Honor • Service

February 4, 2026

Chair Nosse

Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson

Members of the Committee

My name is James Wilson, Fire Chief of Crescent Rural Fire Protection District. HB 4156 has my full support for the reasons outlined in the testimony below.

Crescent Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD) is located in rural Northern Klamath County and provides ground transport ambulance services to the 2,500 – 3,000 citizens within the districts' 564 square mile Ambulance Service Area (ASA). CRFPD is also providing EMS services to a neighboring district which increases the ASA to 1,000 square miles. Mutual aid is also provided to Deschutes, Lake and Lane County as needed. Crescent RFPD operates the nearest Advanced Life Support Ambulance (ALS) to many of our neighboring districts, who operate only at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level of care. Our service area includes over 200 lane miles of critical state transportation routes, including Highway 97, Highway 58 and Highway 31. The area is surrounded by State and Federal lands, which produces no district tax revenue, but affords abundant recreational opportunities, which further increase weekend populations in our covered district by 4-5 times our resident population during all four seasons of the year. The ASA call volumes have steadily increased every year by 5-10%, with CRFPD answering 825 calls for various emergencies in 2025. CRFPD relies heavily on limited staff, and volunteers to cover the 1.5 – 3.0 hour one-way transport times that vary due to the location of the emergency, and our distance from area hospitals.

Crescent Rural Fire Protection District receives approximately \$25,000 from the GEMT program after administrative fees have been deducted each year. GEMT funding has provided revenue to offset rising costs in every facet of the districts' budget. Small districts like CRFPD do not have sufficient reserves or other revenue streams available to sustain an instant loss of these funds during a fiscal year without severe consequences, directly impacting ambulance service delivery in our remote area. CRFPD's budget primarily covers personnel expenses and bare minimum maintenance and supplies. With a reduction or elimination of GEMT funding, CRFPD would be faced with provider layoffs affecting approximately 1/5th of its career workforce.

In closing, Crescent Rural Fire Protection District would ask the committee for support of HB 4156. Our district appreciates your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:



James Wilson, Fire Chief

Crescent Rural Fire Protection District

Klamath County Ambulance Service Area #11