



To: Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
EMS and Fire Chapter of SDAO

Date: February 5, 2026

Re: HB 4121

On behalf of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) and the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) Fire and EMS Chapter, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on HB 4121.

Overall, HB 4121 represents a meaningful and forward-looking investment in Oregon's emergency response capabilities and overall resilience. Reliable, well-coordinated emergency communications and 911 services are foundational to public safety, and this legislation recognizes their critical role in protecting our communities.

OFCA and the Fire and EMS Chapter of SDAO want to specifically express their appreciation for the heart and intent behind Section 33 of the bill and its focus on firefighter health and wellness, including the Department of the State Fire Marshal's study examining disparities in health coverage between paid and volunteer firefighters.

This section would analyze current fire service cancer and medical screening trends, standards, and policies, identify best practices and implementation strategies, and evaluate financial assistance options for economically disadvantaged departments. Firefighting is inherently hazardous work, placing extraordinary physical and mental demands on those who serve. Ensuring equitable access to medical evaluations, preventive care, and comprehensive health coverage is essential to sustaining a strong, effective, and resilient fire service.

This provision represents an important first step in acknowledging and addressing the need to provide medical support to all firefighters across the state, regardless of an agency's resources. When our fire professionals are properly supported and cared for, the communities they serve are safer and better protected. We appreciate that HB 4121 recognizes this connection and takes a meaningful step forward in support of Oregon's fire service.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 4121 and for your commitment to supporting emergency response in the state.