



TO: Chair Nosse, Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

FR: Sabrina Riggs
Oregon State Ambulance Association

RE: Support for HB 4081

The Oregon State Ambulance Association (OSAA) is the statewide ambulance association representing all of Oregon's diverse emergency medical services (EMS) providers. Our membership includes public fire department-based providers, private providers, volunteer-based providers, and non-profit providers. OSAA members provide ground and air emergency transports across the State, and many participate in innovative programs like community paramedicine/mobile integrated health programs.

OSAA is pleased to offer our SUPPORT for HB 4081. We believe this legislation will be instrumental in modernizing the EMS system in Oregon. We are confident that HB 4081 will be helpful to address Time Sensitive Emergencies and will tackle the challenges the industry faces with a central driving force, with the necessary local flexibility and input. We also appreciate the language included in HB 4081 stating that the establishment of the program does not affect the contracting authority of counties and county ambulance service areas.

We also look forward to continuing the work around workforce development and identifying solutions to the EMS systems in Oregon for consideration in 2025.

OSAA knows all too well that the primary challenge facing the industry is a lack of workforce. Workforce shortages in the EMS system is threatening public health and jeopardizing the ability to respond to healthcare emergencies on a timely basis. We appreciate Rep. Grayber's commitment to addressing this challenge through the interim, culminating in a proposal for the 2025 Legislature.

Our members deeply appreciate the collaborative effort from Rep. Grayber and her office, and we look forward to carrying that collaboration forward through implementation of HB 4081, and in the 2025 Session as we tackle Phase Two.

The OSAA respectfully urges the Committee's support of HB 4081.

2024 Officers:

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