



Senate Health Care Committee

February 13, 2019

Testimony in opposition of SB 452 and SB 544

On behalf of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, please consider this this testimony in opposition and with concerns for SB 452 and 544.

As the providers of emergency medical services, we have grave concerns that these bills set a disturbing precedent of determining medical care and protocol through state statute. Paramedics and their teams are operating under the best information and protocols for emergency medicine and trauma. Paramedics are able to deliver medication that a patient or family provides currently. Agency medical directors set protocol for emergency medical services and insure that our medical care can meet the needs of our communities. Emergency medical providers work within medical practice and remain current on the diseases and conditions that they encounter on a daily basis. This includes rare disease protocol as well.

In smaller communities, agencies may only have EMTs who are working in the EMS service and on ambulances. EMTs would not be able to administer this medication do to state protocol, making the requirement to carry this medication on all ambulances not a wise use of resources.

Emergency medical services account for a large number of emergency calls to fire districts and departments around the state. With this increase, we see a need to continue to identify resources for our emergency services providers and public safety responders in order to have the best and most effective and robust system of care for those experiencing an emergency.

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