



OREGON STATE SENATE

January 19th, 2020

To the Family of Scott Fairley,

First of all, I regret that I am unable to attend my friend's Celebration of Life service. I counted Scott Fairley as one of my close friends, and one with whom I had the opportunity to work on a bunch of projects together. This day I am flying back to Oregon, having spent the last few days at a conference in Austin, Texas. Otherwise I would be in Pendleton at his service.

When I heard about the events surrounding Scott's death, mostly from the great article in the East Oregonian by Kathy Aney, I was both sad and mad. The delay in the insurance preauthorization probably contributed to his untimely death.

At a meeting a few days later mutual friend Paul Chambers, pulled me aside and asked if I was aware of that happened to Scott and the delay. I said I was, to which Paul asked me, can you do something about that? Paul has a history of putting me on the spot, but that is another story.

I said I would try, but I honestly did not know what that might be. Then on Wednesday January 15, 2020, that opportunity was provided to me. The State Legislature held what is called Legislative Days, and it was the first opportunity before the February Short Session, to sign onto bills that had been introduced.

I won't go into the details on the miracle on how a certain bill came to my office from the House Side of the Capitol for me to consider signing. But it was a bill to restrict to no more than 48 hours the time an insurance company has to determine preauthorization.

Not only did I want to sign on to the bill, I wanted to be a chief sponsor. In doing so, I will take on the responsibility to carry it in the Senate when it comes over. I made it clear that I was doing it in honor of Scott Fairley. It will be my way to honor Scott and fulfill my pledge to Paul.

Even though it will be too late to help Scott, it will hopefully save other Oregonian lives. When I carry the bill, I will call it the Scott Fairley Memorial Bill. It is the least I can do for my good friend, and what I know he would have done for me, were the tables reversed.

Rest in Peace my friend, and I pray for God's grace, and peace for your family.

Sincerely,