YES on HB 2910 -1

THE PROBLEM

- Oregon is leaving federal money for EMS on the table
- Medicaid reimbursements are low, and do not cover the cost to provide care
- The 2016 Legislature tried to solve this problem with HB 4030 but the Federal Government (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services- CMS) only approved half of the equation, for public EMS providers.
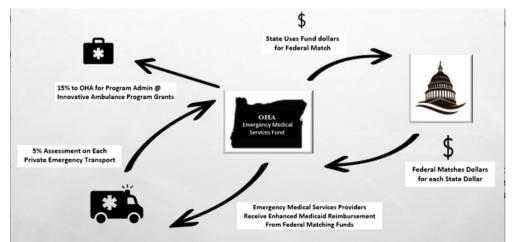- Additional legislation is needed to allow the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to seek CMS approval for the second half of the equation, and ultimately ensure that all kinds of EMS providers have access to higher reimbursements

THE SOLUTION

HB 2910 -1 creates the permissive framework that OHA needs to explore federal approval for a Quality Assurance Assessment- a pathway to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for private & non-public EMS providers and bring federal dollars into Oregon's EMS System, at no cost to the State. The -1 amendment also includes negotiated language between management and labor to ensure that increased reimbursement rates will lead to increased wages and benefits for employees.

FAST FACTS- QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSESSMENT

- This kind of program is well tested- California and Washington successfully use this provider-funded assessment to bring federal dollars into their EMS system .
- Providers pay a fee to participate- this fee is split between the State (Part A) and the Federal Government (Part B).
  - Part A covers the cost to administer the program, and the excess creates a grant program to expand access to community paramedicine.
  - Part B heads to the Federal Government to receive a match, and cycles back to participating providers via higher Medicaid reimbursements.

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