



Oregon Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians

**Statement for the Record
House Health Care Committee
March 23, 2021
HB 2076, EMS Modernization**

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs and members of the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Dr. John Moorhead. I'm a member of the board for the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and I'm submitting this testimony in strong support for HB 2076, the EMS modernization bill. This bill will coordinate emergency health care using a regionalized approach and most importantly, flag problems at the crisis point, determine what services are needed and deliver the patient to the right care, including specialty care centers. It also upgrades the ability of the EMS system to respond to disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the wildfires last summer or the historic storm last week.

The concept for this bill has been around for a long time. OR-ACEP and other partners worked with the late Senator Alan Bates to improve the state's health care system and reduce morbidity and mortality for trauma, stroke, cardiac care and other emergencies. Improved response is especially critical for rural and minority populations with disproportionate access to emergency care.

Over a decade ago, I chaired the OHA Emergency Healthcare Task Force. Its mission was to seriously assess and make recommendations for the improvement to Oregon's emergency health care system with a focus on improving the delivery system for EMS care. The chief priorities are echoed in HB 2076: regionalization of an accountable system of emergency care with the goal of getting patients to the most appropriate facility, improving regional and state data sources to predict and measure outcomes, comprehensive coordination to assist with activating appropriate resources and directing high risk patients to the appropriate facility including transfer of the sickest patients to facilities with a higher level of care.

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Virtually all Oregon residents rely on a robust emergency health care system in the state. Yet the EMS system is lagging behind and the global pandemic has emphasized the urgency of improving our system of care to address the emergency health care needs of our state. These recommendations were carefully considered and bill was introduced in 2013. The bill didn't advance but the future of Oregon's system of emergency care depends on your action now.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.