



**TO: Representative Prusak, Chair  
Representatives Salinas and Hayden, Vice Chairs  
Members of the House Committee on Healthcare**

**FR: Sabrina Riggs  
On behalf of Oregon State Ambulance Association  
[sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com](mailto:sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com)**

**RE: Support SB 3**

**April 26, 2021**

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

OSAA would like to offer our strong support of SB 3, which would ensure that services provided by EMS are covered as necessary emergency care by insurers. Our members report that every day, they respond to 911 calls where patients are apprehensive to accept the care they need, because they aren’t sure what their insurance will and won’t cover and they are worried about getting stuck with a large medical bill they can’t afford.

A transport via ambulance or air ambulance is much more involved than a simple ride to the hospital. EMTs and paramedics are highly trained medical professionals—and pre-hospital care has a significant impact on a patient’s overall health outcomes. Further, the events of 2020 have highlighted the importance of EMS care. Oregon’s EMS providers have been on the frontlines of COVID-19, wildfires, and ice storms.

We all hope that emergencies do not occur, and that there is never a need for 911 services. But, if and when an emergency does strike, patients should never be in a position of weighing whether or not to call 911 and access potentially life-saving emergency services because they are unsure what their insurance will and won’t cover. OSAA would like to thank Senate President Courtney, Sen. Patterson and Sen. Manning for bringing this important bill forward. We respectfully urge the Committee to support and pass SB 3 to the House Floor.

**Members:**

- AirLink Critical Care Transport
- AMR Josephine County
- AMR Portland
- Ashland Fire & Rescue
- Bay Cities Ambulance
- Bend Fire Department
- CAL-ORE Life Flight
- Canby Fire District
- Eugene Fire & EMS
- Clackamas Fire District # 1
- Douglas County Fire District #2
- Falck Northwest
- Jefferson County EMS District
- Klamath County Fire District
- La Grande Fire & EMS
- Lebanon Fire District
- Life Flight Network
- Medix Ambulance Service
- Med Transport Inc.
- Mercy Flights Air & Ground Ambulance
- Metro West Ambulance
- Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue
- Pacific West Ambulance
- REACH Air Medical Services
- Santiam Hospital Ambulance
- Springfield Fire & Life Safety
- South Lane County Fire & Rescue
- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
- Western Lane Ambulance District
- Woodburn Ambulance Service

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- Ferno EMS
- Medic-CE
- PeaceHealth/Sacred Heart
- Umpqua Insurance Agency
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- Mercy Flights Air & Ground Ambulance
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- Legislative Chair, Randy Lauer*
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**Staff:**

Amanda Dalton / Sabrina Riggs  
8 N State Street, Suite 200 | Lake Oswego OR 97034  
[www.OregonAmbulance.org](http://www.OregonAmbulance.org) | [staff@oregonambulance.org](mailto:staff@oregonambulance.org)