

Mercy Flights Inc., located in Medford, Oregon, is the nation's first civil air ambulance and was founded in 1949 by George Milligan, (an air traffic controller in Medford, after a friend of his died of polio in Southern Oregon, unable to survive the long, slow ground transport to Portland). Mercy Flights is currently Oregon's only nonprofit air and ground ambulance service.

Today Mercy Flights serves over 18,000 households, several of whom have been members since Mercy Flights' inception. Managing your healthcare needs can be an overwhelming endeavor. Mercy Flights works to help patients overcome barriers to meeting those needs.

In January 2016, Mercy Flights started the **Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Program**.

The first program established within the MIH program focused on patients that over utilized the emergency department and emergency medical services. The focus of this program was to identify barriers patients experience and to help them find and access services to address these barriers. The goal was to reduce the ongoing need for these services and improve the clients' overall ability to manage their health.

Mercy Flights is committed to bringing mobile healthcare to the community who need help navigating healthcare systems. Mercy Flights knows that every person's health is important to the health of our region. Mercy Flight's MIH providers are field experienced EMTs and paramedics that have received additional training to support the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

We believe passage of HB 2397 and the creation of the Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program to fund and monitor local pilot projects related to emergency services for seniors would be a perfect fit for a program like MIH, as seniors are such an important group for the MIH program to focus on.

In fact, if you would like to hear directly from the Mercy Flights CEO Sheila Clough about the MIH program as an example of the type of program that could be supported by HB 2397, please let me know. I am sure she would be happy to speak with you about it and provide testimony to the committee.

Thank you for your time and service.