

Submitter: Jelisa Maret-Pantoja
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB60

I am in support of not requiring a two-year degree to be a licensed Emergency Medical provider as Oregon is the only state that requires a two-year degree to be a practicing Emergency Medical Provider. The two-year degree doesn't even have to be in medical field to qualify. Emergency Medical Service providers are trained to the National Standard set forth by the medical community. This should be enough as Emergency Medical Providers are going through schooling/training to obtain their certificate then have to pass a national test before being allowed to practice. The two-year degree requirement is a little redundant in my opinion, and a way for schools to make more money from people wanting to hold a license in Oregon.

This two-year degree requirement is putting a strain on rural Emergency Medical Providers in that we are unable to use valid and valuable personal due to no having the two-year degree requirement. This has caused great unnecessary issues for companies looking to employ great people. The Emergency Medical Providers that do have the requirement are scarce in rural Oregon. Rural Oregon does not even have a Paramedic program at a local college in Oregon so having a pool of Paramedics to choose from is very limited. The closest Paramedic program is in Idaho, which does not require a two-year degree. With having limited people in rural Oregon, people that do meet the requirements are overworked. The two-year degree requirement is a great stress for ambulance/government ambulance companies and Emergency Medical Providers that would love to work in Oregon as a licensed Emergency Medical Provider.

Treasure Valley Paramedics has had many Nationally Licensed Paramedics apply for employment but are unable to hire these Paramedics due to not having the two-year degree requirement. These were great people, with a great opportunity, and we could have really used their abilities to work for us. This is not only hurting Emergency Medical Providers and companies, but it is hurting the communities in rural Oregon.

Please reconsider the requirement for a two-year degree to be a licensed Emergency Medical Provider in Oregon Emergency Medical Services.