

Submitter: Robbie Heithecker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB60

My name is Robbie Heithecker, I am writing this in support of SB 60. I am currently employed at Treasure Valley Paramedics in Ontario, OR as an Emergency Medical Technician. In my two years at the company I have already seen a lot of turnover due to license requirements in our field. We at Treasure Valley Paramedics have seen some great individuals move on to other opportunities in the past six months. We had other staff members come in and start to fill voids left by those that moved forward. They were only here for a short while, when their provisional licenses expired we again were stretched thin. The requirements to practice paramedicine put a thick pair of handcuffs on some individuals. These people have a certain set of skills that not many around the nation have. Their abilities to work this job, work with people, provide excellent pre hospital care and provide leadership on their select teams should not be hindered due to a piece of paper with any type of degree attached to it. The amount of work and hours to obtain a paramedic license are well above and beyond what any associates degree requires. This all being said, the support for this bill to do away with said rules for needing a degree to practice, will only make for more paramedics being able to work in the great state of Oregon. The nation is hurting for the select few that can go out day after day, night after night, to do the job that we all love. This will put the state in a much more solid position as people from around the valleys can start to arrive and practice their craft throughout Oregon. I hope this message is heard and helps shine some light on the current situation in not only Ontario, OR but the entire state and great nation we all live in.

God bless and best regards,

Robbie Heithecker