

Submitter: Sam Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB60

I am a paramedic who has been working in the Portland metro Area for over 5 years, I am 29 years old. This measure proves to benefit no one beyond large ambulance corporations such as AMR, Falck, and others. At best this measure is like trying to put a band-aid on a bullet wound in regards to the paramedic shortage. It would serve to absolve 60+ years of advancement in the field of EMS. It would reduce wages for workers and put patients at risks. Improving EMS systems and staffing should focus on higher pay and better working conditions (we still are not entitled to any lunch breaks in a 12 hour shift). EMS staffing shortages exist because the job is hard physically and mentally many paramedics move onto other careers in health care where the pay and working conditions are better. Paramedics burn out in Portland in a matter of months, not years. The solution is not to slap paramedic patches on more warm bodies and throw them out into the streets of a state with record homelessness, violence and drug overdoses. High employee turnover serves the employer by keeping wages low, it harms the employee and the patients they serve. When you are having a medical emergency do you want someone with LESS education to show up and care for you?