

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Timothy Mollman

Shop Steward International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 223

Paramedic, Field Training Officer

Honorable committee members, thank you for your consideration of EMS staffing in Oregon. As you are aware our Emergency Medical Services system is in a state of crisis. Agencies across the state are not able to fill staffing vacancies. While Oregon is unique in their degree requirement Oregon is not unique to this crisis. Across the nation EMS agencies are unable to fill staffing vacancies. This phenomenon is also not unique to EMS. Our entire healthcare system faces this challenge.

Increased call volumes, increased directed violence, lack of work-life balance, high stress, long hours, and poor working conditions are a handful of reasons EMS professionals are leaving in droves. Compared to other healthcare professionals requiring this level of responsibility, knowledge, and skill our compensation remains low-ranking.

24 years ago my start was in rural Oregon, presently I serve as a Paramedic FTO with the contracted ambulance provider of Multnomah County. Everyday Paramedics apply their knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, psychology, sociology, and engineering in our service to you. We should be having the discussion on increasing the education requirement, not getting rid of it. Let's make this a career people want to enter, stick around, and can comfortably retire from. Our communities deserve more. Let's all do better.