



National Association of EMS Physicians®  
Oregon Chapter

Date: Feb 5, 2024

To: Rep. Rob Nosse, Chair  
Rep. Travis Nelson, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Christine Goodwin, Vice-Chair  
Members of the House Behavioral Health and Healthcare Committee

From: Ritu Sahni, MD, MPH, FAEMS  
Oregon Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Ritu Sahni and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians as well as myself. I am an EMS physician and served as the Oregon's first State EMS Medical Director. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 4081, the EMS modernization bill. I thank Rep. Grayber and her staff for their leadership and significant effort.

Oregon was one of the first states to develop a statewide, regional-based trauma care system. In fact, its system has become a model for other high performing systems in the country. Since then, Oregon has lagged its peers as other states have developed collaborative systems around stroke, cardiac care and other emergencies.

HB 4081 would develop a system of statewide support for local and regional development and operation of systems of care for critical emergencies as well as populations of need. It will do this by having constituent members create state standards and develop local, regional networks to implement the most effective and efficient care. It will leverage existing data sources to provide these regional networks with the tools to develop these systems. The system will work to develop care that provides the best possible care regardless of urban/rural location or socio-economic group. **In short, the right patient will get to the right place in the right time.**

In 2010, the OHA released the Emergency Healthcare Task Report. As State EMS Medical Director, I had the honor of being the main OHA staff for the task force. This task force was chaired by Dr. John Moorhead and included representation from all areas of healthcare, legislators, and patient advocates. This work became the initial launching point for this important work. The initial bill for this work was proposed by Senator Alan Bates and it is my hope we can honor him by passing this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ritu Sahni, MD, MPH, FAEMS