

Submitter: Marc Kilman-Burnham
On Behalf Of: Global Medical Response
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1547

Chair Gelser Blouin and Vice -Chair Robinson, I am Marc Kilman-Burnham Director of GA for Global Medical Response.

I am testifying in support of SB 1547 and would express my strong support for the section of the Senate Bill that proposes the formation of an advisory committee to establish an emergency medical services reciprocal licenses program for medical service providers licensed in other State or territories and members of the armed forces of the United States who are trained to provide emergency care. This initiative has the potential to greatly benefit both our military personnel and the citizens of Oregon.

Firstly, it is important to acknowledge the extensive training that current members of the armed forces receive in providing emergency care. Their experience and expertise in high-pressure situations make them well-suited to handle emergency medical services. By determining the military occupational specialties that align with each type of emergency service provider level, we can effectively assess the necessary training and education required for a member of the armed forces to be eligible for a reciprocal license as an emergency medical provider. Additionally, we don't want to forget there are currently EMT's and Paramedics who are highly trained and have been providing emergency care in other states for years that would love to move to our Great state to continue their profession but find it almost impossible due to reciprocity issues.

Issuing these licenses to current out of state EMS professionals and members of the armed forces who have received military training in emergency care would be a significant advantage for both the authority and the state of Oregon. In Section 8 1-B It would require that ambulance service providers employ or contracting these trained professionals holding a reciprocal license, guarantee that they are appropriately trained. This would not only enhance the quality of emergency medical services but also address the critical issue of burnout and extreme shortages faced by providers after the pandemic.

Furthermore, it is crucial to consider the current crisis in national EMS staffing, which has been exacerbated by factors such as homelessness, violent crimes, and low wages. By allowing qualified members of the armed forces to obtain reciprocal licenses, as well as EMS professionals already providing lifesaving care we can alleviate some of these challenges and improve access to reliable emergency care for own Oregon residents.

In conclusion, if these medically trained emergency care providers can effectively serve our troops during battle under dangerous circumstances and out of state providers are effectively serving in other states, it stands to reason that they are well-equipped to provide quality care for the citizens of Oregon. I urge you to support Senate Bill 1547 and help establish a reciprocal license program that benefits both our military personnel in Oregon and the residents of our state.

Thank you for your time,