

Submitter: Dan Brattain
On Behalf Of: Cal-Ore Life Flight-Reach Air Medical-Airlink
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB778
Distinguished Committee Members:

I represent three of Oregon's five (5) air ambulance providers with locations in Brookings, Coos Bay, Roseburg, Bend, and Klamath Falls.

We urge you to support the much needed inflationary adjustment to the Oregon Medicaid reimbursement for air ambulance operations proposed in SB778. This adjustment will mirror the same inflationary factor that the current federal Medicare reimbursement provides each year. Because Oregon's Medicaid air reimbursement is based off of Medicare rates at an established 80% (20% less than Medicare), this annual adjustment will assist us in keeping pace with the continued rising costs of providing service to many of the rural locations in Oregon.

Both Medicaid and Medicare rate air rates continue to fall well below the cost of providing service and our services receive no subsidies or tax support other than fees collected for providing the service. Medicaid represents a substantial portion of our patient population and thus all additional funding we can generate helps to insure continued service to the communities we serve.

While I had hoped to travel from Brookings to Salem for tomorrow's hearing, I am unable and understand that other providers will be testifying as well in support of this bill.

We greatly appreciate your consideration in supporting this much needed adjustment which will be consistent with Medicare's annual adjustment.

Dan Brattain, Vice President
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