

Submitter: Marc Kilman-Burnham
On Behalf Of: Global Medical Response
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB778

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Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Marc Kilman-Burnham, Governmental Affairs Director from Global Medical Response.

I am here today representing three of Oregon's five air ambulance providers, with operational bases in Brookings, Coos Bay, Roseburg, Bend, and Klamath Falls. As an Oregonian this legislation is paramount not only for me personally but all Oregonians.

We respectfully ask for your support for the critical increase adjustment to Oregon's Medicaid reimbursement for air ambulance operations proposed in SB778. This adjustment aims to align with the annual inflationary factor currently applied to federal Medicare reimbursements. Given that Oregon's Medicaid air ambulance reimbursement is set at 80% of Medicare rates—20% lower than Medicare—it is imperative that we secure this adjustment to keep pace with the rising costs of providing essential services, particularly in our rural communities across the Great State of Oregon.

It is important to highlight that both Medicaid and Medicare air ambulance rates consistently fall short of covering the actual costs associated with delivering these vital services. Our operations receive no subsidies or tax support, relying solely on the fees generated from our lifesaving services. With Medicaid accounting for a sizable portion of our patient population, any additional funding we can obtain will directly contribute to our ability to continue serving the communities that depend on us.

We appreciate your work on this much-needed adjustment, which aligns with Medicare's annual adjustments. Thank you for your commitment to air ambulance services in Oregon. The passage of SB 778 will keep these lifesaving resources viable and accessible to the communities we serve.

Marc Kilman-Burnham – Governmental Affairs Director – Oregon
Global Medical Response - Cal-Ore Life Flight/Reach Air Medical/Airlink

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