

Submitter: Shawn Baird
On Behalf Of: Metro West Ambulance
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2222

Metro West Ambulance Family of Companies
5475 NE Dawson Creek Drive Hillsboro OR 97124

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,
Metro West Ambulance EMT's and Paramedics provide a wide range of Mobile Integrated Health services to patients across Oregon including everything from home visits to prevent emergency department admissions, vaccination and medication administration, all the way to highly complex hospital at home medical services. Our EMT's and Paramedics perform thousands of MIH visits to patients every month. We contract with major health systems across Oregon to deliver this essential out of hospital care.

While we applaud the intent of HB 2222, we are opposed in its current form. HB 2222 as written is overly broad and creates unnecessary burdensome requirements on both OHA and our EMT and Paramedic providers to achieve an aim that can be effectively done through existing administrative rule process. HB 2222 will create workload on the OHA Medicaid staff at a time when we still have not operationalized Medicaid Supplemental Payment Programs for EMS including QAF, passed by the legislature in 2021, and GEMT.

Specifically, HB 2222 calls for creation of a single registry to be developed and administered by OHA for all health care providers of any licensure type, which providers must be listed in, to participate in Medicaid for MIH services. Additionally, an undefined "endorsement" of the individual health care license would be required. It is not determined what additional burden will be placed upon employers and providers to meet these new requirements, to perform patient care we are already undertake dozens of times a day with our OHA licensed medics.

The bill establishes billing codes for providers but fails to recognize that the employer or medical director, not the para professional, is the billing entity. This needs clarification.

Furthermore, the bill would potentially outsource the work of the OHA to a "peer-professional" organization to develop the proposed requirements. It is essential that any work developing rules and requirements for our health care providers be done in a normal public rules process to assure full and fair participation by all stakeholders.

I believe there are discussions underway between the bill proponents and OHA to address these critical issues. I am hopeful that these issues will be addressed, but in its current form HB 2222 creates unnecessary barriers to service. I look forward to seeing amendments, which I have heard are forthcoming, to address these concerns.

Shawn Baird, Paramedic
Metro West Ambulance, CEO