



**Oregon Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians**

Date: March 20, 2024

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

From: John Moorhead MD, FACEP
Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency
Physicians (OR-ACEP)

Subject: HB 3572 EMS Modernization Phase Two

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs and members of the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Dr. John Moorhead and I'm submitting this statement on behalf of Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians in strong support for HB 3572, the second phase of the EMS modernization bill.

HB 4081 (2024) was a landmark bill to coordinate emergency health care using a regionalized approach and most importantly, flag problems at the crisis point, determine what services are needed and deliver the patient to the right care, including specialty care centers. It also upgrades the ability of the EMS system to respond to disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires or severe ice storms.

We wish to thank Rep. Dacia Grayber and Chief of Staff Barrett Johnson for their tireless leadership on this effort to improve our state's EMS system for all Oregonians. EMS Modernization was the most important bill for EMS in decades and has moved the future of Oregon's system of emergency care forward. Now that the framework has been established, it's time to work on implementation.

This bill focuses on four key objectives: technical fixes to HB 4081, EMS Mobilization Plan, 10-year EMS Plan and short-term workforce programming.

Chapter President- Craig Rudy, MD, FACEP

Chapter Executive- Sierra Acker

President-Elect- Christian Smith MD, FACEP **Government Relations Director-** Katy King

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The bill includes key investments for long-term funding mechanisms to provide relief on workforce, quality improvement activities, innovation and to OHA, the State EMS Program, charged with implementation of the bill and long-term planning activities and coordination. Administrative funding is necessary to fully staff the Program. HB 4081 created the structure. HB 3572 will implement the vision and make investments to address the workforce crisis.

EMS Services Workforce and Funding Package

Approximately \$9 million is needed for investment in short-term workforce solutions, including subsidizing the cost of paramedic licenses, rural paramedic student loan forgiveness, an increase in the Rural EMS Volunteer tax credit, allowing alternatives to Oregon's two-year associate degree requirements, and a regional innovation fund for local workforce pilot programs.

We urge your support of this bill.

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