



**To: The House Committee on Revenue**

**From: Chief Ben Stange**  
Polk County Fire District No. 1  
Fire and EMS Chapter of SDAO

**Chief Brian Stewart**  
Clackamas Fire District  
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

**Date: May 6, 2025**

**Re: HB 3380 – Testimony in Support**

**Chair Nathanson, Vice – Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the committee,**

For the record, my name is Ben Stange, and I am speaking today on behalf of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chapter of the Special Districts Association of Oregon. We are here to express our strong support for HB 3380.

This bill is a meaningful step forward in addressing a critical gap in healthcare access for Oregon’s rural communities. By increasing the existing tax credit for volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) providers from \$250 to \$1,000 and extending the credit through 2030, HB 3380 recognizes and supports the essential, lifesaving work these individuals perform in areas where paid, full-time emergency medical services are not available.

Volunteer EMS providers are the backbone of emergency response in many parts of Oregon. In addition to balancing their full-time jobs and families with call response, they are often volunteering to staff events and festivals that are bringing other Oregonians into their communities. They are also using their time and gas to commute to attend classes that are required for recertification with the State. This work is not only a sacrifice of time, but also results in personal costs to these volunteers. This bill helps reduce that financial burden in a modest yet meaningful way. These are our neighbors who are stepping up in their communities, not for a paycheck or a pension, but out of a commitment to service when no one else can.

The number of conversations we have in this State about access to healthcare in rural parts of Oregon are frequent. Recruitment and retention of providers are topics across the State for primary care physicians and specialists, but our EMS system includes the same challenges. Any step we can take to help strengthen and bolster healthcare access across Oregon, including HB 3380, should be pursued.

Thank you for your consideration!