

Date:	February 11, 2026
To:	Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson & Diehl, Members of the Health Care Committee
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager Tim Dooley
Subject:	HB 4053 Support

The Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, is in full support of HB 4053. Counties oversee the emergency medical services (EMS) systems in their communities through regulation of the Ambulance Service Area and local ordinances. County Commissioners, Judges, and Chairs from across the state joined Rep. Grayber in advocating for rural EMS funding to OHA in their application for federal funding from the Rural Health Transformation Program. Counties are very pleased to report that rural and frontier EMS is a focus for this program.

Creation of this EMS program fund to receive federal funding is a prerequisite to allocate these funds and have them available to redistribute to local communities to enhance service delivery, workforce development, and technological advancement. The bill makes several technical fixes to the EMS programs, but also of note is the ability to have paramedic students from out of state programs conduct their clinical rotations in Oregon. This provides a great opportunity to recruit these students to this state and help with the existing workforce shortage for EMS professionals.

Counties ask that you support this simple and common-sense update to our EMS system and take one more step in the continuing direction of EMS modernization.

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