

# Oregon

---

## Fire Chiefs' Association

727 Center Street NE #300 Salem, OR 97301

(888) 846-5741  
(503) 365-7893 fax  
ofca@ofca.org  
www.ofca.org

To: Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare, Human Services and  
Health Policy

From: Tay Robertson, President, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association  
Mark Stevens, President, EMS Section, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Regarding: Testimony regarding SB106

Date: March 28, 2011

Recent evidence revealed how Oregon's emergency medical service system (EMS) is itself in need of resuscitation. Specifically, the 2007, Institute of Medicine Report "EMS at the Crossroads," American College of Emergency Physicians' 2009, "Report Card on the State of Emergency Services," and National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's 2006, "Re-Assessment of Oregon EMS and Trauma" identify critical issues that need resolved.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA-EMS) and Oregon Medical Board responded by forming the "Vision 2012 Work Group." The group's charge was to study the NHTSA "EMS Agenda for the Future" documents, collect stakeholder input, conduct a gap analysis and provide final recommendations toward draft legislation. Their final recommendations include:

1. Standardize Oregon emergency responder licensing to match National Registry levels (retain the Oregon Intermediate level). This will improve reciprocity and portability between states including returning military personnel.
2. Standardize curriculum and credentialing of emergency responder training programs to national guidelines.
3. Provide improved Medical Direction for all levels of emergency training and response.
4. Integrate nontransport EMS agencies into local, regional and state EMS. (Currently only ambulance services are recognized in Oregon statute.)
5. Initiate statewide data collection to improve evidence-based decisions.

SB106 incorporates the above recommendations and corrects many of our system deficiencies. It establishes a framework for uniform quality standards for our citizens while meeting the needs of local communities.

Oregon's fire service deploys a majority of the state's emergency medical responders, volunteer and paid. We are the largest provider of EMS and cover regions of our state from urban to frontier.

SB106 allows us the opportunity to participate in an accountable health delivery system. It would integrate thousands of additional nontransport responders into an organized system. If enacted, these accountable organizations can join with other community health partners to provide better care at a reduced cost for our citizens.

In the spirit of user fee-based oversight, SB106 does not rely on general fund dollars for implementation and maintenance. Rather, a fee system is proposed that will cover the basic elements of regulatory oversight while minimizing the impact on responders. Although any new fee is concerning, the proposed fee structure based upon numbers of full-time paid responders appears reasonable and fairly distributed.

Review of original draft SB106 found unintended consequences due to cut-and-paste inaccuracies. Draft amendments were proposed and accepted to correct these to original intent of the document.

With the proposed amendments intact, the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, and EMS Section are in favor of SB106.

Sincerely,

*Taylor Robertson*

Tay Robertson, President, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association  
Fire Chief, Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District

*Mark Stevens*

Mark Stevens, President  
EMS Section Oregon Fire Chiefs Association