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LARRY LANGSTON
Fire Chief

February 1, 2016

House Committee on Health Care
Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: City of Bend Support for House Bill 403

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 4030 will allow the City of Bend Fire Department to collect uncompensated costs associated with providing medical transport to Medicaid patients via the use of federal dollars already set aside for Medicaid patients. We estimate that HB 4030 will decrease local taxpayer liability and increase Bend Fire's operating budget by approximately \$500,000.

Currently, Bend Fire is only allowed to collect 20% of costs related to providing emergency transport for Medicaid patients. The uncollected 80% becomes an encumbrance and is eventually passed onto taxpayers. HB 4030 will allow Bend Fire to collect 64% of the EMS costs.

Two years ago, Bend Fire passed an operational levy. Bend Fire has utilized those resources to become more innovative in how we deliver EMS service. We have reduced our response times by 90 seconds and our ability to be available for the next call has increased to 90%. Bend Fire's heart attack survivability rate increased to 50%, one of the highest in the nation. Bend Fire is continually looking at ways to be more effective and efficient when delivering EMS care. The extra funds from HB 4030 will allow us to continue to expand and improve our delivery model.

The City of Bend Fire Department strongly endorses HB 4030 and urges all lawmakers to pass this extremely important bill for the Fire Service.

Sincerely,

Larry Langston
Bend Fire Chief