



## MEDFORD FIRE-RESCUE

[www.medfordfirerescue.org](http://www.medfordfirerescue.org)

200 S. Ivy St., Room #180  
Medford, OR 97501  
Telephone (541) 774-2300  
FAX (541) 774-2514

TO: House Committee on Health Care  
FROM: Chief Brian Fish  
City of Medford Fire-Rescue  
DATE: February 8, 2016  
RE: Support for HB 4030

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Thank you for your consideration of HB 4030 which has the potential of providing reimbursement for our response to Medicaid patients in need.

Medford Fire-Rescue proudly serves the 90,000 citizens that reside within the City of Medford and the Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2. Medford Fire-Rescue consists of five fire stations and a team of 83 dedicated personnel. The Firefighters, Paramedics, EMT's, Inspectors, Administration and Support Staff of Medford Fire-Rescue provide professional, full-time fire-fighting, paramedic emergency medical, hazardous materials, heavy rescue, and life safety services. In addition, our specialists and resources regularly provide services through automatic and mutual aid agreements to neighboring communities.

As you know, Oregon's elderly population is a quickly growing demographic. The shift is reflected in our emergency calls as we find that 64% of fire/emergency service calls are medical in nature. Increased need means both public and private providers of transport services are essential to livable communities. Fire service based first responders will continue to be an integral piece of Oregon's health care system, particularly in the emergency pre-hospital setting.

Passing this legislation is the first step in identifying resources that could help close the compensation gap in pre-hospital response for the entire EMS system, and assist the State to further healthcare innovations. HB 4030 directs the Oregon Health Authority to convene stakeholders and develop a proposal for federal reimbursement eligibility and to align EMS goals with those the legislature has developed for Oregon's Integrated and Coordinated Care Delivery system.

HB 4030 is about engaging stakeholders and finding a way for both public and private responders to work in conjunction to meet the needs of the increasing Medicaid population with the federal financial assistance needed to assure the highest quality transport.

Simply, this bill starts a conversation, a strategy session, and a visioning process for public and private medical transport that is overdue.

Medford Fire-Rescue urges your support for HB 4030.

Brian Fish, Fire Chief  
MEDFORD FIRE-RESCUE