

VOTE YES – House Bill 4030A

Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT)

More than 1 million Oregonians receive care through the Oregon Health Plan - Oregon's Medicaid program. When a Medicaid patient receives emergency ambulance transport, the Medicaid base reimbursement rate is far below the actual cost of providing that service; in some cases over \$800 per transport.

Oregon has 100 licensed public transport agencies. Most of these are rural departments who struggle to maintain services in light of declining budgets.

Under GEMT, eligible providers throughout Oregon would have the opportunity to be reimbursed for their uncompensated transport costs. Additionally, GEMT provides an opportunity to collect for non-transport medical care provided to a Medicaid patient. Currently, only the entity that conducts the transport can collect the base reimbursement rate, even though a team of EMS providers responded to the call.

GEMT legislation allows EMS providers to seek authorization from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in existing Federal Financial Participation (FFP) programs. These FFP programs have been in place for decades to assist health care providers in recovering costs not reimbursed under state Medicaid plans. Oregon's hospitals, health care facilities, and other health care providers currently participate in these programs.

Costs that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) might incur to administer the programs will be paid for by the participating providers through administrative fees. A conservative estimate shows this revenue could be as much as \$75 million for EMS providers across the state, and \$15 million to the State of Oregon.

If enacted, HB 4030A directs the Oregon Health Authority to form a workgroup of EMS stakeholders. It then directs this workgroup to incorporate recommendations for health care transformation into Oregon's State Plan Amendment. Moreover, this bill includes language to allow for the possibility that private and non-profit providers may be considered by the CMS for possible federal reimbursement.

If passed, Oregon would join California, Washington, and Nevada as early adopters of the GEMT program.

For more information, visit www.oregongemt.com

Associations in Support of HB 4030:



GEMT 101

- Under GEMT, eligible providers throughout Oregon could seek additional reimbursement for their uncompensated transport costs.
- GEMT has the potential to allow eligible providers to draw down additional funds for the medical care provided to a Medicaid patient before the transport.
- GEMT funds would help fill the monetary gap now shouldered by public providers and, ultimately, the taxpayers.
- GEMT legislation does not create a new program at the federal level.
- GEMT participation requires no increase in overall costs at the state or local level.
- Legislation is needed to be eligible for GEMT funds.