



**TO: Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Members of House Healthcare Committee**

**FR: Shawn Baird, President OSAA
Sabrina Riggs, Lobbyist OSAA
sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com**

RE: HB 4135

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4135 on behalf of the Oregon State Ambulance Association (OSAA). OSAA is comprised of over 20 emergency service providers across Oregon. Our members are publicly and privately owned, and include ground and air first responder and transport services. As you may imagine, our members are frequently on scene during critical, potentially end-of-life moments.

I am writing to express the associations' support of HB 4135. As you have undoubtedly been made aware, the current advance directive form has not been updated since 1993. The form is outdated, and confusing for patients.

Our members respond every day to emergency calls at homes, hospice, nursing facilities, and while providing inter-facility transport to critical medical situations at the end of life. These events require rapid evaluation of the patients' condition, existing medical orders including POLST, Advanced Directives, and other forms of Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) orders, as well as the wishes of loved ones who may be on scene. Our aim is always to honor the patients wishes for end of life care.

Given the distinct difference between the advance directive and the POLST form, OSAA was glad to see that the final version of the advanced directive will contain language stating the differences between the two. We are hopeful that the temporary form will contain such language as well.

And, because of our complicated, unique encounters involving the advance directive form, we believe that EMS could provide a valuable perspective in the proceedings of the advance directive committee. While we are not listed as an official member of the advisory committee in the bill, we are hopeful that the committee meetings will be a public process that we can lend our expertise to.

Finally, I'd like to thank the proponents and sponsors of this important bill. The Oregon State Ambulance Association is looking forward to participating in conversations that will lead to an updated, easily understandable, patient-friendly advance directive form.