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### PRESS RELEASE

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## Legislature Votes to Improve Access to Medical Transportation

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Legislature voted in favor of a measure Thursday to increase Oregonians’ access to critical health care services.

Senate Bill 3, sponsored by Senate President Peter Courtney, requires health insurers in the state to cover emergency medical services (EMS) transports for patients experiencing medical emergencies.

“A medical emergency is one of the most stressful times for a person and their family,” said Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem). “When you’re in an emergency you shouldn’t have to worry about what your insurance company will or won’t cover. We must make sure Oregonians have access to the treatment they need, when they need it.”

Courtney said he introduced the bill to help individuals feel less afraid to call 9-1-1 when experiencing medical emergencies. Under Senate Bill 3, insured patients can expect their health benefit plan to cover emergency medical transportation, including ambulances and air transports, to the nearest medical facility available for the continuation of their care.

Senate Bill 3 passed 47-2 in the House after passing the Senate on a 26-1 vote. The bill now moves to the Governor’s desk for her signature.

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