

I am representing Oregon Emergency Nurses Association. We have 451 members in the State of Oregon and approximately 36,000 nationally.

We are opposed to DHS Reduction Options: Items 48 and 81, which would effectively eliminate the Oregon Trauma System. Oregon ENA believes the proposed budget reductions would result in a devastating blow to the Oregon Trauma System. The true cost of these proposed reductions will be measured in unnecessary loss of life as well as loss of an irreplaceable state resource.

Please consider the following while making these difficult decisions:

1. Oregon Trauma System (OTS) is mandated in state statute.
2. The OTS was established 20 years ago as the first all inclusive US trauma system.
3. Care at a trauma center lowers the risk of death for injured patients by 25 percent compared to treatment received at non-trauma centers
4. A Study on a national evaluation of the effect of trauma center care on mortality concluded strongly for continued efforts at regionalizing trauma care at the state and local levels to assure that patients who suffer serious injuries get to a trauma center where they are afforded the best care.
5. High quality trauma care requires an integrated statewide system. The Oregon Trauma System coordinates trauma hospital and pre-hospital care providers to minimize trauma related morbidity and death
6. In the event of a catastrophic disaster in Oregon, the OTS will be essential in the coordination and delivery of patient care.
7. The OTS provides care for approximately 10,000 critically injured patients per year.

This winter, seven young victims were shot outside a Portland nightclub. EMS transported them to area trauma centers in Portland. The proposed budget reductions will eliminate the Oregon Trauma System.

Elimination of the Oregon Trauma Program would reduce incentives for hospitals to maintain structured trauma programs that review and improve trauma care, ensure timely response of physicians who provide general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery and other specialty care.

This systemized has resulted in the reduction of deaths and disability by providing a mechanism to identify trauma patients needing crucial services and either treating these patients in a local trauma hospital or transferring them to a facility best equipped to provide the needed care.

We appreciate these are difficult times for the state and citizens of Oregon. The Oregon Trauma System is one such element, both indispensable and irreplaceable.

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