

## State Trauma System on the Cut List: A 10% Reduction to 2009-11 Legislatively Approved Budget Level Sets State Trauma System to be cut

Due to the current economic conditions facing the state and the potential revenue consequences of the January 26, 2010 special election to the state's 2009-11 biennial budget, the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) requested the submission of reduction options from state agencies receiving General Fund appropriations and Lottery Funds allocations (and some selected Other Funds). If both tax measures fail at the ballot in January, the state will lose \$727 million of General Fund revenue projected for the 2009-11 biennium; this represents approximately 5.5% of the current legislatively approved General Fund budget.

In order to provide options and flexibility for legislative leadership, LFO requested the development of a total of 10% in reduction options in 5% increments. These reductions were to be from the 2009-11 legislatively approved budget level.

LFO will be working with agencies to analyze and refine these options in order to provide recommendations to the Legislature during the February 2010 special session

### **Line 66 of the Program Unit/Activity Description OCHHP - Eliminates GF support to the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System –**

The Trauma Survey and Registry Program conducts inspections of hospital emergency rooms and maintains a database for hospital care provided to trauma patients. This is used extensively for quality improvement efforts and to reduce morbidity and mortality rates. The two Mobile Training Units are staffed by paramedical trainers to provide training equipment and required continuing education courses to Emergency Medical Technicians, including volunteers, in rural and frontier areas. The Emergency Medical Services for Children program helps provide quality and effective emergency medical care to sick and injured children.

### **Impact of Reduction on Services and Outcomes**

Loss of the Trauma Registry and Survey Program would eliminate state inspections and quality improvement activities in hospital emergency departments and eliminate state coordination of trauma resources in the event of a natural disaster involving trauma patients. Elimination of the Mobile Training Unit Program would result in reduced staffing for some ambulance agencies, particularly in rural areas that rely on volunteer emergency responders. Loss of the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program will reduce the quality improvement and training for emergency responders.

In Summary, this eliminates all general fund support to the EMS and Trauma System. This includes the Trauma Program (4 staff - Trauma Program Manager, Trauma Coordinator, Data Analyst and Trauma Registrar, support for the Oregon Trauma Registry, the Trauma Hospital Designation Program, and the Technical Assistance provided to trauma hospitals. Additionally, Mobile training unit (2 paramedic staff) that provides EMS training to rural and frontier ambulance agencies, general funds that

support the EMS supervising physician education, and all general fund support for the EMS for Children program will be cut.

As you may recall, we were faced with the same potential cut last year but we organized, joined other groups, wrote letters and testified at the Ways & Means Committees throughout Oregon. Now, we need to be heard again and keep our trauma system. The Oregon ENA State Council is ready to offer support against these cuts. I will be arranging meetings with our representatives and we need to lobby the members of our Ways & Means Committee. This means testifying, sending letters and working with other groups that support our same cause.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Rep Peter Buckley and Sen. Peter Courtney, will have the following public meeting in February at the State Capital to address adjustments to the 2009-11 budget.

**February 2110**

**Every Tuesday 3:30- 5:30 in hearing room F**

**Every Wednesday 8:00 – 10:00 30 in hearing room F**

**Every Friday 8:00 -10 30 in hearing room F**

I will be sending a draft letter that you can email to your representative. Everyone's voice counts.

Please email or contact me with questions;

Ted Raschkes  
Chair Government Affairs, Oregon ENA  
Traschkes @msn.com  
503-561-5427

Susan Kuhnhausen, RN, CEN  
Co-Chair, Government Affairs, Oregon ENA  
E-mail: susankuhnhausen@comcast.net