



Oregon Nurses Association 2015 Legislative Priorities

Keep Blood Drives Safe

Problem: Blood donation companies, like the American Red Cross are moving away from using licensed health care professionals on blood drives in Oregon and across the country.

If blood donation companies are successful, unlicensed workers would handle all donor suitability determinations; including physical exams where unlicensed workers take a donors' health history, temperature, pulse, blood pressure, blood sample and determine a donors' hemoglobin levels.

Without health care professionals present at blood drives, unlicensed workers would be also in charge of donor safety and the safety of the blood supply during blood drives.

In 2013, polling showed that Oregonians are overwhelmingly opposed to proposals to dramatically alter the role of registered nurses in Oregon's blood donations procedures. In a statewide poll conducted by Triton Polling and Research:

- **64 percent of Oregonians say they would be less likely to donate blood** if a blood bank were to have unlicensed personnel supervise blood donations instead of a registered nurse
- **73 percent of Oregonians would feel less confident about the safety and security of Oregon's blood supply** if unlicensed personnel were put in charge of supervising blood donation processes instead of a registered nurse
- **82 percent of Oregonians would be less likely to donate blood** if a registered nurse was not available to oversee blood donation procedures

Solution: In order to ensure donor safety, strengthen the public's trust and ensure the safety of Oregon's blood supply, legislators should pass a bill requiring that a registered nurse, or other licensed health care professional (ex. Nurse Practitioner, Physician, Physician's Assistant, etc.), be present at all blood donation procedures, in order to help determine potential donor suitability, oversee donation procedures and to ensure donor safety and the safety of the blood supply. This is a crucial bill that would help ensure donor safety and enhance the public's trust in critical blood donation procedures.

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is Oregon's oldest and largest professional association and labor union for Registered Nurses, and ONA is proud to represent over 12,000 Oregon nurses. ONA works to support policies that ensure the best working conditions for nurses, and the very best health care for the patients they serve.

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