



America's Blood Centers[®]
It's About *Life.*

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February 25, 2015

Representative Mitch Greenlick
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2541

Dear Representative Greenlick,

I am writing today on behalf of America's Blood Centers (ABC), a not-for-profit association representing non-profit community based blood centers throughout the United States. Our members provide over 50% of the blood supply in the US and have a unified mission of assuring and sustaining a safe and adequate blood supply in this country. Operating in Oregon, our members include Bloodworks Northwest and Lane Blood Center.

ABC opposes HB 2541, requiring advanced licensure (RN, PA, MD) of personnel in our donor operations, because it will increase health care costs and reduce access without evidence of improvement in the quality or safety of blood center services.

The blood community, including our interactions with blood donors, is heavily regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and subject to the professional standards of AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks). Neither entity has any such requirements. Blood donors are central to all that we do, and their safety and well-being is paramount. To this end, blood centers have established a long list of donor criteria to preserve donor safety, monitor donor complications and share best practices to minimize adverse reactions to donation and support their wellness.

HB 2541 will increase health care spending, requiring substantially more expensive licensed personnel to perform tasks in our donor rooms that do not require advanced training. The safety of blood donation in the US today attests to this fact. HB 2541 will not lead to improved donor health or better outcomes. We are interested to know if the supporters of the legislation have provided published, peer-reviewed data to support their case, which we do not believe exists. Further, it may adversely impact the blood supply by reducing the number of venues where blood collection can be hosted. We have only found two states out of fifty have requirements such as those proposed in HB 2541 and it is the consensus of those familiar with them that they are labor-related statutes, not initiatives to improve donor safety.

Decision makers who want to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare services need an evidence base before creating policy. In summary, ABC opposes HB 2541 because there are no data supporting the need for a change. Passing this legislation will increase cost and lead to an increase in cancellation of blood drives and decreased access to blood products. Without evidence that safety or quality will be improved, this legislation does not meet the requirements for value-based decision-making and the bill should not move forward.

Oxley & Assoc. - Courtney Sipe

Thank you for the opportunity to present our position. We remain available at any time to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Christine S. Zambricki

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