



## Oregon Nurses Association 2015 Legislative Priorities

### HB 2541A: Blood Drive Safety

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**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.

**HB 2541 maintains the standard we've worked hard to establish in Oregon**

Oregon has worked hard to maintain high standards for blood drive safety. Due to a contractual agreement between the American Red Cross in Oregon and ONA, nearly 95% of Red Cross blood drives operated in Oregon are operated by a team of professionals, and nurse are a vital part of that team. As blood organizations struggle to adapt to a changing industry, blood bank organizations have largely moved away from utilizing nurses on blood drives. HB 2541A protects an important safety standard by requiring a LPN, RN, PA, NP, or MD be present on every blood drive operated in Oregon.

**Inadequate training and staffing at core of FDA blood drive violations**

Blood drives are regulated by the FDA. As blood drive organizations have moved away from the use of licensed personnel on drives, we've seen a dramatic increase in the number of FDA citations and violations issued. Cuts, aimed at preserving profits, have primarily been in the area of staffing. Meanwhile, American Red Cross has been under federal court order to improve their collection procedures for nearly 15 years. Between 2003 and 2012, ARC was cited by the FDA 14 times, for about \$46 million in fines, with inadequate staffing level and training at the core of many of the violations.

**Nurses Protect the Blood Supply and Patients who rely on donated blood**

Nurses have vital assessment skills that serve as a resource to the rest of the blood drive team. While the intake process is often a simple series of yes or no questions, it can be more complex. The training, judgment, and assessment skills nurses acquire through their education and practice enable them to recognize potential problems and respond appropriately, enhancing the safety of the blood supply, donors, and transfusion recipients. Nurses are also better trained to respond to adverse reactions, should they occur. Oregon's Nurse Practice Act gives nurses the authority and responsibility to perform tasks that unlicensed personnel do not have the education and training to manage solely.

**The FDA's oversight continues to fall short. Please support HB 2541A to ensure the safety of Oregon's blood supply, donors, and the Oregonians who rely on donated blood**

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*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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