

**Please Support HB 2541A**  
**Rich App, RN**  
**February 13, 2015**  
**Blood Donors Deserve Nursing Expertise**

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rich App. I've been a registered nurse for over 30 years and have practiced in a variety of settings, including 18 years in special collections at the American Red Cross (ARC). I am honored to serve and provide quality nursing care to Oregon residents who selflessly give the gift of life.

As an Oregonian, I am extremely proud of the unique way Oregonians continue to work towards progress and set national trends. Oregon's citizens embrace being unique and are not afraid to think differently about how to best serve public needs. As a nurse in the blood drive industry, I'm excited to see Oregon working to improve standards for donors and protect Oregon's blood supply with House Bill 2541A, and I'm extremely proud of the bi-partisan support this bill received in the House.

A 2013 poll conducted by Triton demonstrates that most Oregonians agree that every blood drive conducted in Oregon should have a licensed health care provider present. Seventy-three percent of Oregonians polled would feel less confident about the safety and security of the blood supply, and 82 percent would be less likely to donate blood. Oregonians willing to sacrifice a pint of blood and their time deserve nursing care.

The national trend moving away from the use of nurses on blood drive is happening due to changes in the blood banking industry. Better blood management by doctors, evidence-based medicine, and new innovations has lowered the demand for donated blood. As a result, blood collection organizations have become more competitive and have decided to make cuts to budgets, lay off staff and shifting towards the use of non-licensed personal exclusively. This is not the proper way to handle the changing landscape.

In Oregon, we have resisted this trend to some extent through an agreement between ONA and ARC. Approximately 95 percent of ARC drives operated in Oregon have a nurse present, demonstrating this policy can be implemented without placing an undue burden on blood collection organizations or Oregon's blood supply.

Nurses are essential to blood and blood donor safety. We assist non-licensed staff with the donor assessment process. We use our professional experience and skill to help answer complicated donor acceptability criteria questions. Nurses are trained and able to respond to any unfortunate reactions that may occur during the blood donation process. Nurses are essential to helping donors recover safely.

Donors in Oregon trust that they will be cared for. Oregon must continue to buck the national trend of eliminating nurses from blood drives and pass House Bill 2541A. Donors who step up to the plate to give the gift of life deserve quality nursing care when it is needed.