



Please Vote NO on HB 2541-A



**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross strongly opposes House Bill 2541-A, which would reduce access to blood drives in support of patient needs without evidence of improvement in the quality or safety of blood drive operations, and would increase healthcare costs passed on to consumers in the state of Oregon.

Safe and Reliable Blood Supply

The Red Cross is already committed to the highest levels of quality and safety, and ensures compliance with all regulations set forth by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). These standards specifically require that each blood banking organization adheres to the following principles:

- Maintain standard operating protocols (SOPs) that promote safety and quality
- Adequately train and monitor the competency of all staff performing critical functions
- Provide for the ultimate safety of blood donors
- Ensure the reliable supply of blood for patients in need

However, HB 2541-A puts our commitment to a safe and reliable blood supply at risk by placing unnecessary requirements on blood drives. The negative implications include:

- Requiring licensed staff to be present at all blood drives, despite the fact that trained, non-licensed staff perform all functions of a blood drive
- Cancelling blood drives due to the unavailability of licensed staff, affecting the availability of blood for the patients who need it
- Impacting the work/life balance for all staff as they would have more frequent schedule changes with little notice to comply with the requirement to hold a drive only if licensed staff is available
 - Blood drives are scheduled three to four months in advance and staff schedules are established to meet planned commitments
 - Nurses are in short supply, and it often takes months to backfill a position
- The venue for hosting drives would likely shift over time outside the state of Oregon, where they can be conducted more effectively

Safety

The Red Cross tracks donor complication rates for every blood drive in every state. Our data demonstrates that high levels of donor safety are maintained regardless of the presence of licensed staff at blood drives.

- Only two out of 50 states have any requirement like that imposed by HB 2541-A
 - Both are labor-related statutes, not initiatives to improve donor safety
- There is simply no evidence that supports the contention of enhanced safety by having licensed staff on hand at blood drives

Healthcare Costs

- HB2541-A would require additional and redundant licensed staff to perform functions that trained, non-licensed staff are qualified to perform
- Unavailability of licensed staff would cause blood drive cancellations, which are costly for both the blood center and the community sponsor
- These costs are passed onto the healthcare consumer

Commitment to Staff

- The Red Cross is as committed to the 160 medical technicians that are represented by one labor group as we are the 40 nurses that are represented by another labor group