



American Red Cross
Cascades Region

Representative Paul Evans
Chairman, Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court St. NE, H-276
Salem, OR 97301

March 14, 2019

Dear Chairman Evans,

For over 100 years the American Red Cross Cascades Region has delivered on its mission to help prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Most recently, following significant snowstorms in February and March, we provided aid to several communities by opening five emergency shelters throughout Lane and Douglas counties affected by long-term power outages. These shelters provided communities a place to get warm, a safe place to sleep, meals and a compassionate smile and hug when needed.

These recent responses by the Red Cross Cascades Region highlight the need for all Oregonians to understand and prepare for the power of natural disasters, no matter their size. Which is why today, I offer my support for HB 2229.

Education for preparedness can begin at any age and the Red Cross believes in the power of providing children the tools and knowledge to help themselves be prepared. As CEO of the Red Cross Cascades Region and husband of a middle school teacher, I strongly believe that our schools should have the ability to include natural disasters in their preparedness curriculum. Providing the tools, resources, guidance and flexibility for school districts to include natural disasters in classroom education helps Oregonians of all ages be better prepared and takes the necessary step toward building stronger resiliency.

The commitment of the Red Cross to classroom preparedness can be seen through the Pillowcase Project - a campaign focused on teaching youth in grades 3-5 the importance of personal and family preparedness for natural disasters and home fires. Students learn about the science of a locally relevant hazard and how to best prepare for it. They practice what to do if a disaster occurs and how to cope with related fear and stress. Together with our partners, we've provided the tools and education to thousands of Oregon school children and more than 740,000 kids nationally, demonstrating that preparedness is a step we can all take together.

The Red Cross Cascades Region is a strong partner of Governor Brown's *Resiliency 2025* program and has worked with the State Resiliency Officer and others to further build preparedness awareness. I am pleased to offer my support for HB 2229 and its ability to help strengthen the preparedness of all Oregonians.

Regards,


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