



Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists

TO: Chair Salinas
Members of the House Committee on Healthcare

FR: Kate Ropp, MD
President, Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists

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RE: Support SB 1027

The Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists (OSA) is a professional organization comprised of physicians who are working to uphold the highest standards of anesthesia care and patient advocacy. We write today to express our support of SB 1027.

Many of our member-physicians work in trauma and emergency department settings, where patients often arrive unconscious—and in some cases, remain that way for days or weeks. Sometimes, during the treatment of such a patient, someone on their care team sustains a needlestick injury which potentially exposes them to diseases like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

When such an injury is sustained while treating a conscious, consenting patient the care team is able to perform a blood test to see if the injured provider needs to take post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) medication, which lessens the probability that they will contract certain diseases.

However, if the patient is unconscious or otherwise unable to consent, the provider has no legal way of determining if the patient carries certain diseases, within a timely manner, that might put their injured provider at risk. And, since PEP drugs carry harsh side effects that often last for days to weeks, providers are hesitant to take this medication unless absolutely necessary.

SB 1027 offers a thoughtful solution to this problem, and allows for a confidential blood-draw test only in limited situations. Respectfully, we request that you support SB 1027.