

RE: CG1 Redistricting

Dear Committee Members;

I have been a school nurse in the St. Helens School District for 27 years and live in Columbia City. I am nationally accredited as a school nurse and have an extensive knowledge and experience in public health and medicine. I have also worked my summers and vacations as an emergency nurse at one of Portland's biggest hospitals and at Randall's Children's urgent care. Through this varied experience, I have a unique perspective regarding rural versus urban health care, and there is a difference.

When you redraw the political boundaries, it is imperative that you take in to account the geographic and demographic makeup of our area. We need leadership that recognizes the different medical needs and methods of providing care in rural communities. If you bring more of the urban area through political boundaries into our rural communities, the bandwidth for our elected leaders to address rural health issues and health care will be severely diminished by their inherent requirement to focus on and deal with the urban area's massive healthcare issues. Pulling too much of the urban area politics in to our rural communities would be detrimental to the health and well being of one of our most critical populations, our children.

I urge you to take this into consideration in the redistricting process. Our children are depending on it.

Thank You,

M. Robin Loper, RN, BSN, NCSN
Columbia City, Columbia County, Oregon