

Good Afternoon Mr. President, Senators.

I am testifying in support of SB1529A

My name is Lila Wickham. I am a Registered Nurse and coordinate the Cannon Beach Medical Reserve Corps. In 2021 our small team of 29 licensed professionals supported Clatsop County public health with over 1400 hours of time spent immunizing, testing and performing contact tracing related to the pandemic. The value of that time is calculated at more than \$74,000. The majority of the Cannon Beach Medical Reserve Corp members are retired. Liability coverage is critical to our service in the community. I was a public health manager in two states for 35 years and have weathered many disease outbreaks. My observation of all of those outbreaks and this pandemic is that what many consider to be infringements on individual rights is the public health path forward to limit disease and death. As a result disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies become political resulting in political ideologies taking over and public health interventions have the potential to become lost in the process. The Oregon State Public Health Director is the person with the knowledge and expertise to determine a public health emergency and should have the authority to perform that role.