

Disaster Release Time Legislation Resolution

Whereas climate change is a reality accepted by an overwhelming majority of scientists worldwide, and

Whereas it is widely recognized that a consequence of climate change is the potential increase in both severity and frequency of destructive weather events, and

Whereas we have seen evidence of this in the escalating amount of devastating results of record setting storms, and

Whereas many nurses and other healthcare workers wish to use and enhance their skills to aid the victims of these disasters by volunteering for disaster relief operations, and

Whereas the nature of these disasters does not allow for long term trip planning, but requires aid to be dispatched on short notice, as quickly as possible, and

Whereas due to the constraints of scheduling policies, many healthcare workers must request time off weeks to months in advance, therefore

Be it resolved that the Oregon Nurses Association shall promote legislation mandating release time for healthcare workers to facilitate disaster relief work, and furthermore

Be it resolved that this release time shall be effective immediately upon request, and that it shall be paid and protected release time of a minimum of two weeks, and furthermore

Be it resolved that protected time shall also be available for education in disaster care and processes, and furthermore

Be it resolved that every reasonable effort shall be made to bring this forward for the 2021 Legislative session.