

Keep Blood Drives Safe

Problem: The American Red Cross and other blood donation companies are actively trying to eliminate nurses and other health care professionals from blood donation events in Oregon and across the country.

If the Red Cross and other blood donation companies are successful, unlicensed workers would handle all donors' assessment; including physical exams where unlicensed workers take a donors' health history, temperature, pulse, blood pressure, blood sample and determine a donors' hemoglobin levels.

Without health care professionals present at blood drives, unlicensed workers would be also in charge of donor safety and the safety of the blood supply during blood drives.

In 2013, polling showed that Oregonians are overwhelmingly opposed to proposals to dramatically alter the role of registered nurses in Oregon's blood donations procedures. In a statewide poll conducted by Triton Polling and Research:

64 percent of Oregonians say they would be less likely to donate blood

if a blood bank were to have unlicensed personnel supervise blood donations instead of an registered nurse

73 percent of Oregonians would feel less confident about the safety and security of Oregon's blood supply

if unlicensed personnel were to supervise blood donations processes instead of a registered nurse

82 percent of Oregonians would be less likely to donate blood

if a registered nurse was not available to oversee blood donation procedures

Solution: In order to ensure donor safety, strengthen the public's trust and ensure the safety of Oregon's blood supply, legislators should pass a bill requiring that a registered nurse, or other licensed health care professional (such as a nurse practitioner, physician or physician's assistant), be present at all blood donation procedures, in order to help assess potential donors, oversee donation procedures and to ensure donor safety and the safety of the blood supply. This is a crucial bill that would help ensure donor safety and enhance the public's trust in critical blood donation procedures.

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is Oregon's oldest and largest professional association and labor union for Registered Nurses, and ONA is proud to represent over 12,000 Oregon nurses. ONA works to support policies that ensure the best working conditions for nurses, and the very best health care for the patients they serve.

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