

Testimony in Support of HB 2461

February 4, 2021

House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Lace Velk, RN

Good afternoon Chair Evans, Vice Chairs Lewis and Meek, and members of the committee. My name is Lace Velk. I am Registered Nurse and Member Leader of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). I work in both ambulatory and inpatient critical care, I have been a nurse 8 years. I reside in House District 38.

I offer my testimony today in support of HB 2461, that would establish an Oregon Critical Disaster Preparedness Stockpile program.

At ground zero, and in my opinion, I see what I have been calling, PPE insecurity... Administration is concerned about theft and having enough. Nurses feel like they never really know if they can get what they need.

PPE is available in different ways all across the hospital. It makes it confusing to obtain and has encouraged supplies to be stashed in odd places. Also, PPE is only available in a limited way in all the care areas that I have worked in and all excess is locked away in offices and other unknown areas that are far from patient care at times. The reordering process is much more of a mystery now as well. Also extended use, out of context and variation from best practice is still ongoing.

Thank you!