



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**900 COURT STREET ST NE**  
**SALEM, OREGON 97301**

May 5, 2025

House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Testimony on SB 1108 A – Blood Donation Leave

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and members of the committee,

I'm pleased to bring you SB 1108 A, which came from an idea brought to me by a constituent – a new Oregonian who moved here from Kentucky. In Kentucky, employees can get paid time off for donating blood, but they can't in Oregon. This surprised him, so he contacted my office as his new state senator and asked if I'd look at this for him. As a result, I bring you SB 1108 A, which would do just that: allow employees to take time off to donate blood. In addition to Kentucky, other states that have varying versions of blood donation leave include Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, California, and New York.

Currently, only three percent of all eligible people in the United States donate blood. This lack of donors has led to a critical blood shortage across our nation. Blood cannot be manufactured or grown. It must come from donors. And over the last two decades, the number of donors has declined by 40 percent. In particular, there's a struggle getting younger folks to donate, while those over the age of 65 are increasing their donations. I do not think it is a coincidence that young working folks are less likely to donate.

In Oregon in particular, there is an added struggle that is particularly unique to our state: last year, no other state had more blood drives canceled due to weather. Blood drives are a way to get folks to more conveniently donate blood without having to go into a permanent donation center, so having so many blood drives canceled at a time when regular donors are at a critical low seriously exacerbates the problem.

My office worked with BOLI in developing this bill to be administratively simple, and I also appreciate the collaboration from Oregon Business & Industry, the Oregon School Boards Association, and the Oregon Education Association. After hearing concerns from OBI and OSBA, my office worked with them and OEA to craft agreeable amendments, which resulted in the A-Engrossed bill. The adopted amendments simply make blood donation a permissible use of an employee's accumulated sick leave. As a result of the amendments, there is no opposition to the bill, and it came out of the Senate Labor and Business Committee on a unanimous 5-0 vote and off the Senate floor on a unanimous 28-0 vote.

By giving workers the ability to use their already-accumulated leave to donate blood, we are giving Oregonians the flexibility and incentive to help each other out. An hour out of someone's day, which they would be able to take without having to choose between a good deed and losing wages, can mean that someone will survive a traumatic event. I hope you'll join me in support of SB 1108 A. Thank you.