

Testimony on Raised Bill No. 6277

Christine Cunningham, RN, BSN,

AFSCME Local 3145 Executive Board Member

I. Introduction

My name is Christine Cunningham, I have been a licensed RN,BSN, for approximately 20 years and have been employed by the American Red Cross for approximately 7 years.

II. Testimony in Favor of Section 1, Paragraph (2b-3)

I am testifying in favor of section 1, paragraph (2b-3)

According to the FDA, blood is a medication. Therefore, we need to have a licensed RN or LPN at every drive as the qualified medical designee to ensure the health and safety of donors, staff and the general public and to protect the integrity of the national blood supply.

A licensed RN or LPN has the necessary education and medical experiences needed to make decisions critical to safe and successful blood collection in accordance with state and federal regulations and guidelines.

A licensed RN or LPN has the medical expertise needed to understand the broad set of medical conditions and pharmaceutical histories in order to determine donor eligibility or seek medical clearance from an appointed physician.

A licensed RN or LPN has the medical expertise needed to identify the severity of and provide appropriate care for donors that have a light, moderate, or severe reaction before, during or after the blood donation process.

A licensed RN or LPN has the medical expertise needed to deliver CPR / AED and First Aid and to identify the need to contact EMS and assist in providing a medically safe and smooth transition to an off-site emergency medical facility.

Regards,

Christine Cunningham RN, BSN