



Reflecting on a Legacy and Contemplating the Future

I want to thank Congressman Earl Blumenauer for 50 tireless years as a public servant on behalf of the people of Congressional District 3. His leadership, particularly in healthcare, has been nothing short of inspirational. As a nurse, I deeply appreciate his dedication to ensuring healthcare is accessible to all as a fundamental right. The person who will succeed him certainly has very big shoes to fill.

Amid these reflections, I find myself at a crossroads. Elected officials and community leaders across our region have reached out, encouraging me to consider stepping into those big shoes by running in the upcoming Primary for the 3rd Congressional District. I want you, my friends and supporters, to know that I am carefully and thoroughly considering this.

This decision comes at a critical time. I am working hard to tackle pressing issues for House District 44 in preparation for the upcoming Oregon Legislative Short Session early next year. My commitment to our district remains steadfast, and the work I am doing right now will ensure that whatever my decision, those priorities will be represented in February.

The potential to run for Congress also presents an opportunity to break some significant glass ceilings. With its complex history, our state has the chance to elect its first black member of Congress. We need more representation from the nursing profession in Congress, and to my knowledge, a male nurse has never been sent to Congress. Furthermore, we need more LGBTQ+ representation, and a Black LGBTQ+ man has never been elected to Congress outside of the state of New York. These are significant milestones that we have the power to achieve together.

Those of you who know me know that Medicare for All is a passion of mine, as is my love for workers and the labor movement. These values are at the core of my decision-making process.

I plan to arrive at my decision this week, and I welcome your thoughts and input. Please feel free to reach out and let me know what you think.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude to Congressman Blumenauer for his dedication and leadership. He has set a high bar for public service, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

In Solidarity,

Representative Nelson, HD 44

