



Policies Should Support Patients' Access to Blood Transfusions

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The Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB), America's Blood Centers and the American Red Cross oppose policies that create unnecessary barriers to accessing blood transfusions. Unnecessary restrictions that reduce the number of eligible blood donors will interfere with patients' abilities to receive lifesaving blood transfusions, have the potential increase health care costs, and will create new regulatory burdens.

Blood is an essential, life-saving medicine. Every day, blood transfusions are used to treat patients with burns, battling cancer, during childbirth and surgery. A strong blood supply also saves lives during emergencies, allowing clinicians to provide critical care following natural disasters and car, farm, and skiing accidents.

Unlike other drugs, blood cannot be manufactured to meet demand. Our health care system depends on the continuous availability of volunteer blood donors who provide this priceless gift. Any attempt to restrict the number of eligible blood donors will have profound and life-threatening consequences for patients who rely on blood transfusions as part of their health care.

For several years, the nation has navigated challenges with blood availability, and we have seen the consequences. States that needlessly restrict blood donation will create blood shortages that require doctors to delay essential surgeries. When disaster strikes, providers will be forced to choose which trauma patients receive access to the blood transfusion that could save their lives. The blood supply is essential, and we must all do our part to protect it. It is critical that policymakers reject unnecessary policies, for which the infrastructure does not exist, that impede patients' access to safe blood transfusions. All Americans, including both blood donors and blood recipients, can feel confident that receiving a blood transfusion is safe.

AABB, America's Blood Centers and the American Red Cross strongly encourage every eligible Americans to help support the continued availability of blood by scheduling a donation appointment today.

Please contact one of the following organizations to find a local blood collection site and to schedule an appointment:

AABB: www.WhereToDonateBlood.org; +1.301.907.6977

America's Blood Centers: www.AmericasBlood.org; +1.202.393.5725

American Red Cross: www.RedCrossBlood.org; +1.800.RED CROSS (+1.800.733.2767)