



February 20, 2026

Dear Chairwoman VanOrden and Senate Health & Welfare Committee Members:

The Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB) accredits organizations and serves member hospitals, blood collection establishments, and skilled transfusion medicine professionals throughout Idaho. AABB opposes H.B.0528 because it is unnecessary, overly burdensome and has the potential to interfere with high quality medical care in Idaho.

AABB is a not-for-profit association representing institutions and highly trained individuals involved in transfusion medicine and biotherapies. The association is committed to “improving lives by making transfusion medicine and biotherapies safe, available and effective worldwide.” AABB works toward this mission by developing and delivering standards, accreditation, and educational programs that focus on optimizing patient and donor care and safety. AABB individual membership includes physicians, nurses, scientists, researchers, administrators, medical technologists, and other health care providers dedicated to blood safety.

H.B. 0528 is unnecessary since medically indicated autologous and directed donations are already supported by blood collectors in Idaho. The blood supply in the United States is exceptionally safe, and most patients’ blood needs, including those with complex blood type matching requirements, are met through community volunteer blood donations. Patients requiring specially selected units are transfused every day without the directed donations. Blood collectors support medically indicated autologous and directed blood donations and have processes to qualify such requests, which generally include consultation with patients’ providers.

Multiple safeguards, including extensive donor screening protocols and infectious disease testing, ensure the safety and availability of the blood supply for all patients. The foundation of the nation’s blood supply is volunteer community blood donation; more than 10.7M red blood cells are transfused annually in the United States, and just 0.06% are medically necessary autologous or directed donations.¹

Directed donations carry greater potential risks than standard voluntary donations. For example, the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections is higher in directed units than for units collected from altruistic blood donors who are under no pressure to donate. Also, blood from closely related family member donors can impact patients’ transplant eligibility and raise the risk of transfusion-associated graft versus host disease, which has a high mortality rate. Due to the potential safety and health risks from some directed donations, patients’ treating physicians often consult with transfusion medicine physicians at blood collectors to make these medical decisions.

H.B. 0528 is overly burdensome. The bill has the potential to result in an increased number of medically unwarranted autologous and directed blood donations. This may adversely affect patient care and will create new burdens for providers and blood collectors.

AABB appreciates Idaho’s commitment to ensuring that patients have access to quality care, including safe blood components. However, H.B. 0528 is unnecessary, will create new burdens, and is not needed to achieve that goal. We urge you to oppose H.B. 0528. A call to consider

¹ 2023 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Blood Collection and Utilization Survey

blood donation would provide immeasurable support directly to patients who require life-saving blood transfusions every day.

Sincerely,



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