Legislator: _____ State: _____

Urgent Call to Protect Medical Freedom through New Legislation

Dear _____,

I am writing to urge you to consider introducing new legislation in our state which will protect the medical rights of your constituents, specifically the right to choose the source of their blood donation in the event of an urgent medical need or a scheduled medical intervention. This right to a designated (known blood donor) or autologous (donating for oneself) blood donation is a fundamental aspect of medical freedom that every person deserves in their time of need.

Did you know that the quality of blood diminishes the longer it has been stored? All blood, whether donated anonymously or by autologous or directed donation, is tested for the same infectious diseases. However, bacteria and viruses (Epstein-Barr virus, for example) can still be transmitted through blood products, posing unnecessary risks, especially for individuals whose health is already compromised. Autologous and directed donor blood offers increased measures of quality, as well as potentially increased measures of safety, and provides recipients with greater peace of mind by giving them authority over what is introduced into their bodies. Knowing our donor(s) personally decreases these types of risks. Citizens have the right to medical freedom, which means making decisions about their own health, including the right to choose their own blood donors.

While autologous and directed donor blood donations have been utilized for decades, it has become increasingly difficult to ensure that a patient's desire to receive blood from a known donor is honored. This fundamental patient right is often refused by hospitals, clinics, and blood donation centers, despite a doctor's written order.

I am not writing to request the introduction of a new practice but rather the protection of an existing one. Legislation addressing this issue is being discussed in over 20% of our nation's states (ex: Texas; 2023 SB 1584 and Rhoade Island's 2024 HB 7881).

Protecting these rights aligns with several key legal and ethical principles:

- The US Supreme Court: declaration (USSC no. 18-6210 Mitchell v. State of Wisconsin) "No right is held more sacred, or is more carefully guarded by the common law, than the right of every individual to the possession and control of his own person, free from all restraint or interference of others, unless by clear and unquestionable authority of law."
- 14th Amendment, Section 1: provides protection of a person's life, liberty, and property and due process of law. Every person has the right to determine their health choices according to their conscience without coercion or threats to their freedom to pursue education, employment, worship, participation in society, and happiness. Bodily autonomy is the most sacred of human rights.
- Patient Self-Determination Act of 1990: Affirms the right of individuals to make decisions about their medical care.
- United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Protects the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief.

In the event of an accident, high risk surgery, high risk birth, or other medical interventions, a blood transfusion can be lifesaving. Under the current medical system, patients and their doctors are often being denied the right to choose the source of their blood transfusion, which is a violation of the protected rights listed above.

I would like to make you aware of a philanthropic, member-owned Cooperation called Blessed By His Blood (BBHB). This organization is committed to supporting our medical freedom by allowing us to choose our own blood doors. BBHB's founder, Liz James, is heavily involved in the legislative activity in Texas and is more than happy to provide guidance and direction on this important issue in our state as well.

Choice is a fundamental value, yet securing this choice within the healthcare establishment is becoming increasingly difficult. The right to medical freedom is deeply rooted in the principles of free will and the governance of our nation, as echoed in the preamble of the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness: that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed…"

I urge you to please consider introducing legislation to protect an individual's right to designated or autologous blood donation in our state. This non-partisan issue is essential to upholding the medical freedom and rights of your constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you would like to speak with Liz James at BBHB, please email info@blessedbyhisblood.com.

Sincerely,

_____ _____ _____

Name Sign Date