

January 22, 2009

Dear Members of the Colorado State House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee:

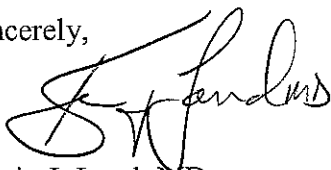
I regret that I am unable to speak to the esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee, but would like to extend my gratitude to Representatives Gagliardi and Swalm for offering House Bill 09-1023 for your consideration and ultimately for the benefit of the Colorado community. An affirmative vote for lowering the donor eligibility age from 17 to 16 can positively impact up to an additional 7,800 patients each year. In my absence, please accept the medical testimony from Kadi Schroeder, registered nurse with a bachelor's of science in nursing and my director of donor-related medical issues at Bonfils Blood Center. She is a subject matter expert in this area and is fully versed to answer your questions.

Our goal with any Bonfils Blood Center blood donor is to ensure a positive donation experience. This is increasingly important with our young donors as they are the nation's future donor base. Bonfils is proactively taking steps to maximize successful donations from our young donors in an effort to cultivate this important group into lifelong donors either here in Colorado or elsewhere.

Our dedication to both donor and recipient safety remains steadfast. We will continue to monitor national and international literature as well as our own experiences and data to stay informed about new ideas specific to not only high school donors, but all donors, to maximize their safety and long term devotion to the selfless act of giving blood. In addition, Bonfils has helped lead the way with the development of a National Donor Biovigilance Network, in conjunction with the United States Department of Health and Human Services and our national industry organization, AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks). The goal is to standardize the collection, reporting and analysis of donor- and recipient-related data to further improve the overall safety of blood donation and transfusion.

I thank you again for your consideration of this important initiative and look forward to accepting donations from 16-year-old donors this fall.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Land, MD
Chief Medical and Scientific Officer
Bonfils Blood Center