

The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015

The Cord Blood Association's Statement of Support

June 18, 2015

Dear Congressman Smith and Congresswoman Matsui,

The Cord Blood Association (CBA) is a recently-created, international non-profit organization that promotes public and private cord blood banking and the use of umbilical cord blood and related tissues for disease treatment and regenerative therapies. Our members include public and private cord blood banks, as well as providers in the cord blood community and their patients. We are dedicated to promoting the work of the cord blood community, saving human lives, changing medicine and improving domestic and international policy.

It is in that spirit that our membership wants to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for your leadership on the introduction of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015. This important legislation, which CBA strongly supports, reauthorizes both the National Cord Blood Inventory (NCBI) Program and the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program (the Program) from FY 2016 through FY 2020. The annual authorization levels are \$23 million for NCBI and \$30 million for the Program. Both are life-saving programs that have made a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of patients and their families.

Cord blood transplantation and research hold promise for an increasing number of pediatric and adult diseases and chronic conditions. It can treat and often cure some types of blood cancers and hereditary conditions, and recent studies have suggested that cord blood transplantation holds promise as a future treatment for other conditions, such as autism, traumatic brain injury, stroke and cerebral palsy.

One of CBA's top priorities is the passage of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015. On behalf of our patients, we look forward to working with you and other House and Senate leaders along with key stakeholders of the cord blood banking community that includes patients, physicians, transplanters, researchers and cord blood banks to ensure that this important bill is signed into law this year.

Sincerely,

President Joanne Kurtzberg, M.D., Director of the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank

Vice President Geoff Crouse, Chief Executive Officer, Cord Blood Registry