



## **National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)/Be The Match Applauds Introduction of H.R. 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015**

The NMDP/Be The Match, which operates the national Be The Match Registry of adult volunteer marrow donors and donated umbilical cord blood units, applauds Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Doris Matsui (D-CA), David Jolly (R-FL), and Chaka Fattah (D-PA) for introducing H.R. 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015.

This important legislation would reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program (Program), as well as the National Cord Blood Inventory (NCBI) grant program for cord blood banks for an additional five years.

“We are pleased that Reps. Smith, Matsui, Jolly, and Fattah have demonstrated their continued support of the Program,” said Jeffrey Chell, M.D., Chief Executive Officer of the NMDP/Be The Match. “The reauthorization of the Program is critically important to our efforts to expand the number of adult volunteer donors on national registry and make sure that every American needing a transplant finds a match.”

In addition to supporting donor recruitment, the federal funding also supports the Office of Patient Advocacy, which helps patients and their families as they navigate the health care system, and promotes ongoing research to improve patient outcomes by funding the Stem Cell Therapeutic Outcomes Database. During the last 28 years, the Be The Match Registry has grown to include nearly 12.5 million adult volunteer donors and 209,000 cord blood units donated by moms after the birth of their babies. Through international relationships, Americans now have access to 24.5 million potential donors and 622,000 cord blood units worldwide.

The C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, named after the late Congressman Bill Young (R-FL) who first established it, has successfully facilitated 68,000 transplants, with nearly 6,300 transplants this year.

“Since the mid-1980s, the Congress has consistently demonstrated its commitment to Americans searching for a cure by reauthorizing and funding the national registry,” Dr. Chell added. “We look forward to working with Members of the House and the Senate to ensure that the authority for the Program does not expire.”

**About the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)** The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) is the global leader in providing a cure to patients with life-threatening blood and marrow cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma, as well as other diseases. The nonprofit organization manages the world’s largest registry of potential marrow donors and cord blood units, connects patients to their donor match for a life-saving marrow or umbilical cord blood transplant, educates health care professionals and conducts research so more lives can be saved.

The NMDP also operates Be The Match, which provides patient support and enlists the community to join the Be The Match Registry, contribute financially and volunteers.