



H.R. 2820, The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015

The Cord Blood Association's Statement of Support

September 4, 2015

Dear Congressman Smith and Congresswoman Matsui,

The Cord Blood Association (CBA) is an international, non-profit organization that promotes cord blood banking for the purposes of saving lives, improving the health of patients and changing medicine. Our membership is comprised of both public and family banks and the cord blood community including patients, donors, and health care providers such as transplant physicians, obstetricians, pediatricians, nurses and midwives. The CBA represents the industry nationally and internationally by promoting medical advances that use cord blood and enhancing domestic and international policy related to cord blood transplantation and research.

CBA would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for House passage of H.R. 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015. This important bill 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 have improved the lives of thousands of patients and their families.

The field of cord blood transplantation and research offers hope for a growing number of pediatric and adult diseases and conditions. Specifically, cord blood transplantation treats and often cures patients with certain life-threatening blood cancers and other hereditary diseases. In addition, recent studies indicate that cord blood transplantation may be an effective therapy for other serious conditions, such as autism, traumatic brain injury, stroke and cerebral palsy.

On behalf of our patients and other members of the cord blood community, we want to thank you for your leadership on H.R. 2820. Be assured that we will continue to push for the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Joanne Kurtzberg, M.D.  
President, Cord Blood Association