
HOUSE BILL 2805

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Barlow, Hudgins, Hunt, Green, Hasegawa, Pedersen, Loomis, Santos, and Kagi

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to umbilical cord blood; and creating new sections.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) Placental and umbilical cord blood is recognized as a viable
5 and more accessible alternative to bone marrow in many medical
6 therapies. Science has discovered ways to treat many types of cancer,
7 blood, and immune disorders through the use of stem cells from
8 placental and umbilical cord blood. Placental and umbilical cord blood
9 is currently used to treat such diseases as leukemia and over sixty
10 other fatal immune system diseases;

11 (2) In the United States there are approximately fifty thousand
12 units of usable placental and umbilical cord blood. However, at least
13 one hundred fifty thousand units are needed in order to meet the
14 nation's demands. While over one thousand cord blood transplants have
15 occurred around the world, it is estimated that with an adequate supply
16 of placental and umbilical cord blood, over eleven thousand patients
17 could receive life-saving treatment in the United States every year;

18 (3) There is an urgent need to dramatically increase the racial and

1 ethnic diversity of the supply of placental and umbilical cord blood to
2 improve the possibility of finding compatible donors in all racial and
3 ethnic communities in Washington;

4 (4) Washington state is home to several large medical research
5 institutions and an expanding biomedical research industry. Over
6 thirty years ago the pioneering work of nobel laureate E. Donnall
7 Thomas, and his colleagues at the Fred Hutchinson cancer research
8 center, made bone marrow transplantation a reality. The use of
9 placental and umbilical cord blood promises to build upon this legacy
10 as well as lead to other new medical therapies; and

11 (5) Research on premature birth is currently being performed by
12 Children's Hospital that has led to gains in efficiency in the
13 retrieval and collection of placental and umbilical cord blood that can
14 be expanded beyond the research subjects to benefit the broader
15 population.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of health shall identify
17 and provide funding to a work group charged with the expansion of
18 umbilical cord blood collection practices consisting of representatives
19 from a major health research institution engaged in premature birth
20 research, a nationally recognized cancer treatment and research
21 institution, a nonprofit blood bank engaged in umbilical cord blood
22 collection, and an organization representing hospitals.

23 (2) The department of health shall support the work group in the
24 development of:

25 (a) Model educational materials for expectant parents and health
26 care providers regarding the process for donating umbilical cord blood
27 and its uses. The materials shall be culturally appropriate for
28 individuals of various races and ethnic backgrounds;

29 (b) Common protocols for use by hospitals and blood banks in the
30 retrieval and collection of umbilical cord blood to increase efficiency
31 to promote the expansion of umbilical cord blood retrieval and
32 collection statewide; and

33 (c) Methods to decrease the cost of umbilical cord blood banking
34 for both research and transplantation.

35 (3) The work group shall provide advice and consultation to the
36 pilot project established in section 3 of this act and review its
37 progress to inform the work group's efforts.

1 (4) By July 1, 2010, the department of health shall submit a report
2 of the work group to the legislature and governor. The report shall
3 contain the work group's recommendations for model educational
4 materials, retrieval and collection protocols, and any recommendations
5 for decreasing the cost of umbilical cord blood banking and expanding
6 umbilical cord blood collection across the state and to diverse
7 communities. In addition, the report must summarize the findings of
8 the pilot project established in section 3 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health, in consultation
10 with the work group created in section 2 of this act, shall identify an
11 institution actively conducting research in Washington that requires
12 the collection of blood and specimens from women during pregnancy and
13 at delivery, including the collection of umbilical cord blood, to
14 participate in a pilot project. The pilot project shall take place in
15 three hospitals in eastern Washington where research is occurring and
16 must support the expansion of the retrieval and collection of umbilical
17 cord blood beyond the research subjects to the general prenatal
18 population. The pilot project must support the additional staff and
19 resources necessary to expand retrieval and collection, which will be
20 overseen by the institution conducting the research, using protocols
21 and methods provided by the work group created in section 2 of this
22 act.

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