
HOUSE BILL 2474

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Williams, Appleton, Moeller,
Wallace, Cody and Hunter

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Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing pilot projects for placental and
2 umbilical cord blood donations; adding a new section to chapter 70.54
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

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

1 (3) There is an urgent need to dramatically increase the racial and
2 ethnic diversity of the supply of placental and umbilical cord blood to
3 improve the possibility of finding compatible donors in all racial and
4 ethnic communities in Washington; and

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

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The department of health shall establish two pilot programs to
15 allow consenting expectant mothers, delivering in a hospital licensed
16 under chapter 70.41 RCW, to donate, to a public blood bank, placental
17 and umbilical cord blood following childbirth. One pilot program shall
18 be located in eastern Washington and the other in western Washington.
19 The department shall administer the pilot project in coordination with
20 blood bank resources currently operating in the state.

21 (2) The pilot projects shall:

22 (a) Increase accessibility to placental and cord blood donation
23 programs and public blood banks;

24 (b) Facilitate the receipt, storage, and distribution of donated
25 placental and umbilical cord blood for use by appropriate patients and,
26 where the donated blood is not suitable for use by patients, for
27 research in projects approved by an institutional review board; and

28 (c) Increase awareness about placental and umbilical cord donation
29 among expectant parents and health care providers, including in racial
30 and ethnic communities where there are difficulties finding compatible
31 donors.

32 (3) The department of health shall report to the legislature by
33 December 1, 2008, on the results of the pilot projects, including
34 information on donations received and the use of those donations for
35 patients and for research. The report shall also include
36 recommendations for expanding access to public blood banks, increasing

1 awareness among expectant parents and health care providers, and
2 promoting donations in diverse communities.

3 (4) The department of health shall create a work group to provide
4 advice and consultation in developing, implementing, and evaluating the
5 pilot project and comment on the department's report. This work group
6 shall consist of patients, health care providers, hospital
7 administrators, blood bank administrators, and representatives of
8 biomedical research institutions.

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