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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2805**

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**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Barlow, Hudgins, Hunt, Green, Hasegawa, Pedersen, Loomis, Santos, and Kagi)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/08.

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 high quality units are needed in order to  
14           meet the nation's demands. While over eight thousand cord blood  
15           transplants have occurred around the world, it is estimated that with  
16           an adequate supply of placental and umbilical cord blood, over eleven  
17           thousand patients could receive life-saving treatment in the United  
18           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;

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; and

12 (5) Research on prematurity at children's hospital and public  
13 banking at the Puget Sound blood center have led to gains in efficiency  
14 in the retrieval and collection of placental and umbilical cord blood.  
15 Efforts by these organizations can be expanded to benefit the broader  
16 population in Washington.

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

26 (2) The department of health shall support the work group in the  
27 development of:

28 (a) Model educational materials for expectant parents and health  
29 care providers regarding the process for donating umbilical cord blood  
30 and its uses. The materials must include information about the full  
31 range of options available for umbilical cord blood banking that is  
32 sufficient to allow a pregnant woman to make an informed decision  
33 before her third trimester of pregnancy on whether to participate in a  
34 public or private umbilical cord blood banking program or to donate  
35 umbilical cord blood for research. The materials shall be culturally  
36 appropriate for individuals of various races and ethnic backgrounds;

1 (b) Common protocols for use by hospitals and blood banks in the  
2 retrieval and collection of umbilical cord blood to increase efficiency  
3 to promote the expansion of umbilical cord blood retrieval and  
4 collection statewide; and

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

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

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

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health, in consultation  
19 with the work group created in section 2 of this act, shall identify an  
20 institution actively conducting prematurity research in Washington that  
21 requires the collection of blood and specimens from women during  
22 pregnancy and at delivery, including the collection of umbilical cord  
23 blood, to participate in a pilot project. The pilot project shall take  
24 place in three hospitals in eastern Washington that are conducting  
25 research and that are selected for the purpose of increasing the ethnic  
26 and racial diversity of the umbilical cord blood units that are  
27 collected for research and transplantation. The pilot project must  
28 support the additional staff and resources necessary to expand  
29 retrieval and collection, which will be overseen by the institution  
30 conducting the research, using protocols and methods provided by the  
31 work group created in section 2 of this act.

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