



SR0986

LRB100 15171 ALS 30047 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The American Red Cross says that every two seconds
3 someone in the United States needs blood; and

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WHEREAS, Recent natural disasters, like Hurricanes Harvey
5 and Irma, and human-caused tragedies, such as the mass shooting
6 in Las Vegas, highlight the importance of blood donations to
7 help save lives; and

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WHEREAS, While an estimated 45.4 percent of men (54
9 million) in the United States are eligible to donate blood,
10 only 8.7 percent of eligible men actually do; and

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WHEREAS, Since 1983, the United States Food and Drug
12 Administration (FDA), an agency under the United States
13 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has prohibited
14 the donation of blood by any man who has had sex with another
15 man (MSM) at any time since 1977; and

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WHEREAS, In December 2015, based on recommendations from
17 the HHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and
18 Availability, the FDA promulgated revised regulations to allow
19 an MSM to donate blood only if he had not been sexually active
20 for the past 12 months; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite these recent steps toward a policy change,
2 a double standard still exists under the policy as revised
3 because it still treats gay and bisexual men differently from
4 heterosexual men; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois law prohibits discrimination against
6 individuals on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual
7 orientation, and gender identity; and

8 WHEREAS, A 12-month deferral policy for gay and bisexual
9 men to donate blood is overly stringent given the scientific
10 evidence, advanced testing methods, and the safety and quality
11 control measure in place within the different FDA-qualified
12 blood donation centers; and

13 WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association (APHA) has
14 stated that no specific scientific rationale exists to justify
15 a 12-month deferral policy; and

16 WHEREAS, Furthermore, the APHA's Executive Director wrote:
17 "Instead of protecting and enhancing the nation's blood supply,
18 a 12-month deferral represents a missed opportunity to save the
19 lives of people in need of blood"; and

20 WHEREAS, The Williams Institute of the University of
21 California at Los Angeles School of Law estimates that, based

1 on the population of eligible and likely donors among the MSM
2 community, lifting the federal lifetime deferral policy on
3 blood donation by an MSM would result in 4.2 million newly
4 eligible male donors, of which 360,600 would likely donate,
5 generating 615,300 additional pints of blood; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the President
8 of the United States and the Secretary of the United States
9 Department of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to
10 repeal the current discriminatory donor suitability policies
11 of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
12 regarding blood donations by men who have had sex with another
13 man and, instead, direct the FDA to develop science-based
14 policies, such as criteria based on behavior and not a donor's
15 sexual orientation; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the President and Vice President of the United
18 States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of
19 Health and Human Services, to the Speaker of the United States
20 House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United
21 States Senate, and to each United States Senator and
22 Representative from Illinois in the Congress of the United
23 States.