



America's Blood Centers[®]
It's About *Life.*

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March 22, 2022

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O St. Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Pan:

America's Blood Centers is the national organization bringing together community-based, independent blood centers. Our member organizations operate more than 600 blood collection sites providing close to 60 percent of the U.S., and a quarter of the Canadian, blood supply. These blood centers serve more than 150 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. All ABC U.S. members are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

We are expressing our strong support for SB 1475, which would permanently authorize a registered nurse to be either physically present or available via telehealth during blood collection at a blood bank.

Local blood collectors have proven during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency that blood can be safely collected with qualified, trained staff having access to a registered nurse via telehealth when consultations are needed. California's hemovigilance data is consistent with nationwide figures showing that trained blood center staff are capable of managing any donor reaction without the presence of a registered nurse on site.

COVID-19 has severely impacted traditional means of collecting blood at school and business-based mobile events and caused significant workforce and supply shortages. During a time of such significant strain on our blood supply, this telehealth option has led to the collection of thousands of units of additional blood in California.

Without this legislation, California would once again be the only state in the nation requiring a registered nurse to be physically present while blood is being collected from healthy donors. This is a requirement that neither the Food and Drug Administration or the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies demand. Requiring the physical presence of a registered nurse unnecessarily compounds the severe shortage of registered nurses facing the state and the entire country.

Telenursing has proven to increase blood collection without compromising donor safety. It is for those reasons that America's Blood Centers encourages passage of SB 1475 without delay. Please direct any follow up and/or questions to Diane Calmus, Senior Director, Federal Government Affairs at dcalmus@americasblood.org.

Sincerely,

Kate Fry, MBA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer