

## RESOLUTION

Subject: KMA Endorsement of Public Cord Blood Banking Options for Kentucky Residents

Submitted by: Lexington Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

---

WHEREAS, umbilical cord blood contains hematopoietic stem cells which are valuable in the treatment of various life-threatening diseases including leukemia, lymphoma, and certain inherited metabolic and immune system disorders<sup>1,2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, umbilical cord blood is a valuable resource, without public infrastructure for donation it is otherwise disposed of as medical waste after a delivery; and

WHEREAS, public cord blood banks provide a critical resource for patients in need of stem cell transplants, and the establishment of such a bank can significantly increase the availability of matching stem cell donors<sup>3,4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, individuals who need a hematopoietic stem cell transplant would benefit from a public bank since non-autologous, matched donations lack the same genetic phenotypes that rendered the individual vulnerable to the blood born disease requiring a transplant; and

WHEREAS, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and other federal agencies offer grants and funding opportunities to support the development and maintenance of public cord blood banks, providing financial assistance to mitigate the costs associated with collection, processing, and storage<sup>1,2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there are public cord blood banks exist across the country<sup>5</sup>, Kentucky currently lacks an infrastructure to donate into these systems, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a public cord blood bank process in Kentucky would enhance the state's healthcare infrastructure, provide new treatment options for patients, and align with national efforts to expand the inventory of publicly available cord blood units<sup>1,2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there are private banks, there is currently no public cord blood bank in Kentucky, thereby limiting the state's contribution to the national cord blood inventory and the availability of these life-saving treatments to residents of Kentucky and the broader region<sup>6,7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, public cord blood banking is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Medical Association (AMA) and more information can be obtained at <https://parentsguidecordblood.org/en/public-banking/united-states>; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA endorses the use of public cord blood bank and encourage the Kentucky Hospital Association to develop options for parents who wish to donate cord blood to a public bank.

## **References**

---

1. <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/consumers-biologics/cord-blood-banking-information-consumers>
2. <https://bloodstemcell.hrsa.gov/donor-information/donate-cord-blood/options-umbilical-cord-blood-banking-donation/donating-umbilical-cord-blood-public-bank>
3. <https://bethematch.org/support-the-cause/donate-cord-blood/cord-blood-faqs/>
4. <https://www.cordbloodbank.com/the-cord-blood-timeline-tracing-the-history-of-cord-blood-banking/>
5. <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/biologics-establishment-registration/find-blood-establishment>
6. <https://kidshealth.org/AetnaBetterHealthKentucky/en/parents/cord-blood.html>
7. <https://nortonhealthcare.com/services-and-conditions/obstetrics-and-gynecology/services/pregnancy/labor-and-delivery/cord-blood-storage/>