



March 13, 2026

Via email: governor@gov.idaho.gov

The Honorable Brad Little, Governor
Office of the Governor
700 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Boise, ID 83702

Re: Request for Veto House Bill 528 (Direct and Autologous Blood Donations)

Dear Governor Little:

On behalf of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), I urge your veto of HB 528. This legislation, if enacted, threatens to disrupt the Idaho blood bank supply system. Directed and autologous blood donations are important tools in specifically tailored medical scenarios, such as when a patient has rare antibodies, but they are resource-intensive, costly, and not suitable for routine use on patients.

In transfusion medicine, Pathologists are the designated physician laboratory leaders who oversee the storage and appropriate medical use of blood products. The vast majority of our patients receive life-saving transfusions from the community blood supply, which is exceptionally safe and trusted among physicians. The community blood supply must remain the primary focus of donor collection efforts. To date, less than 0.04% of transfusions each year involve autologous or directed blood. A widespread state-mandated shift toward such requests would overwhelm blood collection centers and jeopardize timely care for all patients.

Furthermore, directed donations can also pose greater risks for patients. Family members may not be compatible or safe donors, and can unintentionally introduce complications, such as alloimmunization. For example, directed donation from husband to wife could increase the risk of Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn in future pregnancies. Medical professionals must prioritize both donor and recipient safety when evaluating these requests to reduce risk of complications and adverse health outcomes.

Legislative proposals like House Bill 528, mandating access to autologous or direct blood donations, threaten to reduce blood availability, increase costs, introduce waste, and delay life-saving care—particularly for products like platelets, where timely availability is vital.

Accordingly, for these many reasons, we urge policymakers to consider the overwhelming scientific and logistical evidence supporting community-based blood donations to protect the integrity and safety of the national blood supply.



COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

Under the status quo, the U.S. blood supply is among the safest in the world. Legislation like House Bill 528, if enacted, will create unintended consequences in the blood supply system and does not offer proven benefit. For these many reasons we respectfully urge your veto of HB 528.

Sincerely,

Qihui "Jim" Zhai, MD, FCAP
President, College of American Pathologists

cc: Zach Hauge, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, zach.hauge@gov.idaho.gov
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