



COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

May 19, 2025

Via email: district1.vandeaver@house.texas.gov

Honorable Gary VanDeaver
Chair, Public Health Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 125 / House Bill 5090 (Relating to autologous and direct blood donations.)

Dear Chairman VanDeaver:

I am writing on behalf of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP) in opposition to Senate Bill 125 / House Bill 5090. This legislation systematically promotes autologous and direct blood donations, with a physician's order, but potentially contrary to best medical practices. As such, it does not offer any proven public health or individual benefit, and instead poses serious risks to the availability, safety, and sustainability of the blood supply while driving up costs and increasing health care inefficiency.

Directed and autologous donations are important tools in specific medical scenarios, such as when a patient has rare antibodies, but they are resource-intensive and not suitable for routine use. The vast majority of patients receive life-saving transfusions from the community blood supply, which is exceptionally safe and must remain the primary focus of donor collection efforts. Less than 0.04% of transfusions each year involve autologous or directed blood. A widespread shift toward such requests—particularly for non-medical reasons such as donor vaccination status—would overwhelm collection centers and jeopardize timely care for all patients.

The U.S. blood supply is among the safest in the world.ⁱ Legislation requiring the routine availability of directed or autologous donations offers no proven benefit and could significantly destabilize the blood supply system. These proposals threaten to reduce availability, increase costs, introduce waste, and delay life-saving care—particularly for products like platelets, where availability is already time-critical.

For these many reasons, we urge opposition to Senate Bill 125 / House Bill 5090. Thank you for your courtesies and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Karcher, MD, FCAP
President, College of American Pathologists

cc: Jayesh B. Shah, MD, President, Texas Medical Association
Raul Benavides, MD, FCAP, President, Texas Society of Pathologists
Texas House Committee on Public Health

ⁱ. Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies. [How the Blood Community Ensures the Safety of Blood in the United States](#). Accessed April 7, 2025.