

HB

82

Name

Address

Organization

Bill No.

Robert J. Emerson

DH & SS - Iowa

DH & SS

321 + 22

John R. Bug

DH & SS - Div. of Social Services

DH & SS

HB 96

Harold Spalding DH

3504 Grand Rd Ave

Self

HB 86

DON HOSTAR

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

HB 86 - HB 96

POSITION PAPER
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 22

"An Act relating to the donation of blood by those who have reached the age of 17 years."

This bill has two medical considerations:

1. Is there a shortage of blood donors in Alaska that could be relieved by allowing 17 year old persons to donate without permission of their parents or guardians? Hospital blood banks could answer this question based on their experience. The Department of Health and Social Services could investigate this issue if it is desired by the Legislature.

2. Is a 17 year old a suitable blood donor?

Yes, at this age an adolescent can safely donate blood under the same guidelines as an adult.

This bill also has a significant sociologic consideration:

Why should the age of majority be lowered for this particular reason?

Until there has been demonstration of a compelling reason under the first medical consideration or the sociologic consideration, the Department of Health and Social Services is neutral towards this bill.

Recommended by:

Robert I. Fraser
Robert I. Fraser, M.D., Director 2/14/79

Approved by:

Helen D. Beirne 2/16/79
Helen D. Beirne, Commissioner
Dept. of Health & Social Services

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN SESSION:

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
TELEPHONE: (907) 465 4948

SUITE 1, 1020 "I" STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE: (907) 277-6219

REP. M. F. "MIKE" BEIRNE
DISTRICT 7, ANCHORAGE

MEMBER OF:
FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
NINTH STATE LEGISLATURE
TENTH STATE LEGISLATURE
ELEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH
EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW
OF REGULATIONS

March 13, 1979

The Honorable Thelma Buchholdt
Chairman, House Health, Education
and Social Services Committee
Pouch V, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: House Bill 22
Donation of Blood

Dear Representative Buchholdt:

This letter is in support of House Bill 22, which would permit 17 year olds to become blood donors without the need of obtaining specific written permission from their parents.

Many states have such legislation at this time and I am sure that Alaska blood banks and patients would benefit considerably by having this statutory privilege.

This identical bill was submitted to the previous Legislature, passed through the House and was approved by the Senate HESS Committee and was in the Senate Rules Committee at the time of adjournment. So, the bill has been considered before by the House HESS Committee and was approved.

The purpose of the bill is to permit 17 year olds to donate without the specific written permission of the parents. This substantially expands the number of young, healthy donors available for blood donations. Presently, a 17 year old may be inspired to donate blood but the simple complication of getting the

The Honorable Thelma Buchholdt
March 13, 1979
Page 2

parents' written consent requires an extra trip to the blood bank and most of the donors then do not return.

Physically, there is no medical reason why a 17 year old is not physically able to donate a unit of blood. Each donor completes a medical questionnaire and takes a blood test and other medical tests prior to being approved as a donor.

The present system tends to delay and discourage the young people from joining in this community activity. All blood banks in Alaska are nonprofit operations. Permitting the young people to participate in this part of society that they can so well do builds in them a sense of belonging to the community, a community responsibility consciousness, and is in a sense a Junior Achievement program.

I can think of no reason why this privilege should not be extended to 17 year olds. Further, the blood banks would find this very helpful to them, and I have never heard any opposition to this program.

I hope that the Committee will again favorably consider this legislation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mike Beirne
State Representative

MB:js