



May 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building
S-230
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building
S-221
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Madam Speaker, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The American Plasma Users Coalition (APLUS) wishes to lend support to efforts aimed at increasing awareness of the need for plasma donation and the continued manufacturing of vital plasma protein therapies like immunoglobulins and antihemophilic factor. We support amending The CARES Act section 3266 to include “plasma”.

APLUS is a coalition of national patient organizations created to address the unique needs of patients with rare diseases who use life-saving plasma protein therapies created from source plasma. APLUS member organizations share a common desire to ensure that the patient voice is heard when relevant public policies, regulations, directives, guidelines, and recommendations affecting access to safe and effective therapy and treatment are considered. Together, our coalition represents more than 125,000 Americans living with chronic disorders dependent upon plasma protein therapies for their daily living. Safety is of utmost concern to APLUS: we believe that plasma collection regulations should always prioritize the safety of the donor and the safety of the eventual plasma user.

Source plasma is plasma that is collected from healthy, voluntary donors through a process called plasmapheresis and is used exclusively for further manufacturing into final Plasma Protein Therapies. It is vital that U.S. maintain a constant and robust flow of source plasma collection. To treat a single patient with Primary Immunodeficiency Disease, 130 donations are needed per year; this number increases to 900 donations per year for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and 1200 per year for Hemophilia A. The U.S. collects the vast majority of plasma worldwide. Alternative sources for plasma collection on the scale needed are non-existent.

Plasma Protein Therapies are unique and non-interchangeable, and a lessening of plasma donations has the potential to create a significant strain on patients’ treatment plans, many of which are life-sustaining.



APLUS supports the suggestion by the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association and others of amending Section 3266 of the CARES Act to include “plasma” in the awareness campaign outlined in that section. In this regard, we note that the HEROES Act recently introduced in the House contained such a provision. We ask that when Congress completes its work on the next bill to address COVID-19, the plasma provision is included with bipartisan support.

We thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider the APLUS community a resource on this issue,

Signed,

APLUS Members

GBS|CIDP Foundation International

Jeffrey Modell Foundation

Alpha-1 Foundation

Hemophilia Federation of America

National Hemophilia Foundation

US Hereditary Angioedema Association

Platelet Support Disorder Association

Patient Services, Inc.

Immune Deficiency Foundation