



May 14, 2020

Senator Marsha Blackburn
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blackburn,

The American Plasma Users Coalition (APLUS) appreciates your leadership in sponsoring legislation aimed launching a plasma awareness campaign. Now, more than ever, plasma donations remain crucial to the production of life-sustaining medicines relied on by hundreds of thousands of people across the United States.

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 Alphas-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. We applaud efforts to recognize the importance of plasma donations and the selflessness of those who donate.

Thank you for your leadership in raising awareness on the importance of plasma donations that create life-saving Plasma Protein Therapies. Please consider the APLUS community a resource for the awareness campaign.

Signed,

APLUS Members

GBS/CIDP Foundation International
Coalition for Hemophilia B
US Hereditary Angioedema Association
Patient Services Inc.
National Hemophilia Foundation
Alpha-1 Foundation
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Platelet Disorder Support Association