

TO: The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations

HB1456
Unfavorable

FROM: Leslie Ford Weber
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs

DATE: February 26, 2025

RE: HB1456; Hospitals and Tissue Banks – Autologous and Directed Blood Donations - Requirements

Johns Hopkins opposes **HB1456: Hospitals and Tissue Banks – Autologous and Directed Blood Donations – Requirements.**

While directed donation was good practice 40 years ago during the height of the HIV epidemic in the US, measures are now in place to assure the safety of the blood supply. As noted by our accrediting agency, the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB), “The blood supply in the United States is exceptionally safe, and patients’ blood needs, including those with complex blood type matching requirements, are routinely met through community volunteer blood donations and the work of highly skilled transfusion medicine professionals. Patients requiring specially selected units to meet their unique medical needs are transfused every day without special requests for directed donations.”

Johns Hopkins stopped supporting directed donation more than 10 years ago. We strongly believe that this bill would increase costs and bureaucracy without improving patient care. It has the likelihood of generating increased requests for autologous and directed blood donations that are medically unwarranted. This will require additional special handling outside the well-established processes in place now without improving patient care and also raising costs.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1456.