

April 12, 2023

Dear Chair Cynthia Neeley and Members of the House Tax Policy Committee:

Re: House Bill 4068; Tax credit for blood donation

Position: Support

Corewell Health system has provided support for our community through surgical services, cardiology services, transplant programs, oncology services and active trauma centers. These services have a significant role in supporting our communities and our patient's wellbeing. They are all impacted by our ability to provide life-giving procedures dependent on access to blood products. The community support of our blood program that Versiti, Inc serves has over the last several years felt the reduction of donations both related to organized drives and a lack of settings serving this need.

At our Corewell Health West Butterworth campus, we continue to struggle with blood availability. For both O positive and O negative red cells, our ability to maintain a comfortable base number of products in stock has not been achievable since the start of the pandemic. There have been countless times in the past year that our Blood Bank leaders have had to make calls to our regional sites to pull one or two units at a time from all (shorting their supply), as well as work closely with Versiti on imports to maintain a safe number of products to support our trauma and surgical services at the Medical Center. In my forty-year career in laboratory services, I have never encountered shortages in frozen plasma, platelets, and red cell products as we have over the past three years. Recent platelet and blood shortages have at times required pathologist review and approval for transfusion, which slows our ability to provide products in the timeliest manner to meet patient needs. We have worked tirelessly with our blood program to support their efforts in our hospitals and associated locations. While our efforts have been helpful, 2023-HIS-4068 tax credit for blood donations would further encourage this important voluntary action and necessary repeated behavior.

We support this tax credit bill and ask for your consideration to ensure the donated blood products are available for all community members in their times of need. Encouragement of community donations through alignment of tax credits would send a strong message for advancement of our donor blood program through Versiti. This allows Corewell Health to support our mission to improve health, instill humanity and inspire hope.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Smith

Vice President Laboratory Services

Corewell Health West, Butterworth Medical Center