



September 21, 2020

Senator Joanne Comerford
Representative John Mahoney
Joint Committee on Public Health
State House
Boston, MA 02133

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Massachusetts Biotechnology Council
700 Technology Square, 5th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Chairwoman Comerford and Chairman Mahoney:

On behalf of MassBio and our 1,200+ members, I write in favor of **House 4979/Senate 2871, An Act relative to source plasma donation centers**. MassBio supports H4979/S2871 which will allow the Commonwealth to be a much more competitive and suitable place for source plasma collection/donation centers by broadly expanding the state's capacity for plasma donations, used to make treatments for those with COVID-19 and other conditions.

MassBio represents a wide range of member organizations, including biotech companies, teaching hospitals, and academic institutions, the majority of which are directly engaged in cutting-edge research, development, and manufacturing of innovative products that improve the lives of sick people around the world.

Plasma donation is increasingly important, in that it is used to make therapies which treat many rare and chronic diseases. Also, and of the utmost importance, plasma protein therapies are being developed to treat people suffering with COVID-19. These therapies utilize plasma donated by those who have recovered from COVID-19. Unfortunately, we are living through times that soberly remind us how important novel treatments are for the protection of public health. This legislation helps to open up further opportunities in Massachusetts and is the forward-thinking kind of policy-making that we so desperately need as we both fight a pandemic and work to rebuild our economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I look forward to continuing to work with you and other stakeholders to improve patient care in Massachusetts and I hope that you will report H4979/S2871 favorably from Committee. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Coughlin
President & CEO, MassBio