

Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 130

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to explore all avenues to assure that new parents are made aware of their option to donate the blood collected from their newborn's umbilical cord for the purposes of extracting stem cells.

WHEREAS, stem cells extracted from blood collected from a newborn's umbilical cord can be used to provide treatment for a number of diseases and conditions including leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, and others; and

WHEREAS, public donations of such blood are needed in order to assure an adequate supply; and

WHEREAS, congress has appropriated funds to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank Program; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a public education program to assure that pregnant women understand the value of donating cord blood rather than discarding it as medical waste; and

WHEREAS, birthing hospitals can play a major role in assuring that patients who consent are able to make such donations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to explore all avenues to assure that new parents are aware of cord blood donation options and that birthing hospitals take all possible steps to assist those who consent to donate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is urged and requested to confer with hospitals and physicians to make cord blood collection the "standard of care" for those births financed by Medicaid and, ultimately, all births in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall report its recommendations and findings to the Joint Health and Welfare Committee prior to the convening of the 2006 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE