

1 [Urging an End to the Ban on Blood Donations by Gay and Bisexual Men]

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3 **Resolution urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal**  
4 **ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men.**

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6 WHEREAS, Since 1983 the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has banned blood  
7 donations by any man who has had sex with another man at least one time since 1977; and

8 WHEREAS, The FDA cites 1977 as the start of the AIDS epidemic and that men who  
9 have sex with men (MSM) are at a greater risk of HIV, hepatitis B and other infections that can  
10 be transmitted by transfusion; and

11 WHEREAS, The ban on blood donations by men who have had sex with men even  
12 once since 1977 ignores any other factors regarding the individual’s risk factor, which results  
13 in a blanket discrimination against an entire segment of the population; and

14 WHEREAS, The FDA classifies all gay men in the highest-risk blood-donor category—  
15 the same category as IV drug users and people who’ve spent more than five years since 1980  
16 in a country that has Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, known more commonly as mad cow  
17 disease; and

18 WHEREAS, Even with a clean bill of health, a gay man is considered more of a threat  
19 to the blood supply than a straight man who was treated for chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea,  
20 venereal warts, and genital herpes within the past year; and

21 WHEREAS, In 40 states, a man can even give blood immediately after getting a tattoo;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood donation  
24 and more than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day; and

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1           WHEREAS, One pint of blood—the most common amount given in donations—can save  
2 up to three lives; and

3           WHEREAS, A 2010 study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that an additional  
4 219,000 pints of blood would be donated if the ban on gay man were lifted; and

5           WHEREAS, The American Medical Association voted in 2010 to end the ban against  
6 gay men donating blood; and

7           WHEREAS, The United Kingdom lifted its 2011 ban on MSM blood donations; and

8           WHEREAS, As of July 2013, 21 countries have replaced MSM blood bans with  
9 alternate policies; and

10          WHEREAS, In 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services agreed that the  
11 ban on MSM blood donations was suboptimal, but still kept the ban in place; and

12          WHEREAS, In 2010, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution  
13 calling for the FDA to revise their longstanding prohibition on gay men donating blood; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15          RESOLVED, That San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon the United States  
16 Food and Drug Administration to change federal policy banning all gay and bisexual men from  
17 making blood donations.

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