

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2020

Dr. Stephen Hahn
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hahn:

In this critical time for our nation's public health, we request that you overturn the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance on blood donation by men who have sex with men. As hospitals across the country face blood shortages, the FDA should reassess this restriction and end this outdated and scientifically inaccurate practice.

Cancelled blood drives and essential social distancing measures have caused a rapid decrease in blood supply. In our districts, hospitals treating patients with COVID-19 also are also experiencing blood shortages, limiting their ability to meet demand. Turning away willing donors because of outdated and discriminatory policies is damaging public health. I urge you to instruct the Blood Products Advisory Committee to immediately reconsider restrictions on donation by men who have sex with men, end this discriminatory practice and allow anyone who is otherwise eligible to donate and save lives.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress