

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Peter Kikot <peterjkikot@blessedbyhisblood.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 8:29 PM  
**To:** Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Stewart, Jennifer A.; House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Clarification on Opposition Claims Regarding HB 7815 (March 19 Hearing)

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Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

I hope this message finds you well.

As you prepare for the upcoming hearing on **HB 7815**, I wanted to respectfully provide clarification regarding an opposition letter submitted by the Rhode Island Blood Center in connection with **last year's bill (H5864)**. While the bill number has changed, the arguments presented in that letter are likely to be repeated, and I believe it is important to address them clearly in advance.

After reviewing that testimony, I would like to highlight several key points for your consideration.

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### 1. Operational Burden (Section c)

The letter suggests that blood banks may not have the infrastructure or staffing to support autologous or directed donations.

#### **Clarification:**

HB 7815 does not require any blood bank to create a new program. It applies only in situations where a facility already performs blood donations. Directed and autologous donations are already permitted under federal law and are currently performed within existing systems.

This is not a question of feasibility—it is a question of whether a physician's order will be honored when the capability already exists.

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### 2. Fees and Costs (Section d)

The letter argues that blood banks should be allowed to charge additional fees due to increased coordination and processing.

**Clarification:**

This concern is not related to safety, but to pricing discretion. The bill allows standard fees and storage fees, while preventing excessive or prohibitive charges that could effectively block access.

These procedures are not experimental. They utilize the same testing, screening, and processing standards already required for all blood donations.

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**3. Federal vs. State Regulation (Section e)**

The letter raises concerns about duplicating FDA oversight and creating regulatory confusion.

**Clarification:**

HB 7815 does not regulate blood safety. That authority remains entirely with the FDA.

This bill addresses a separate issue: ensuring that patients and physicians are not denied access to an already lawful and regulated medical option. There is no conflict between federal safety standards and state-level protection of patient access.

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**4. “Unintended Risks”**

The letter references potential unintended consequences and safety concerns.

**Clarification:**

No specific risks are identified because none are created by the bill. HB 7815:

- Does not alter FDA testing requirements
- Does not mandate the use of directed blood
- Does not interfere with physician judgment

It simply ensures that a physician-ordered option is not denied.

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**5. Real-World Context**

It is also important to note that **similar legislation was successfully passed and signed into law in Idaho this week**, with no disruption to safety standards or blood supply operations.

We are currently working in 17 states on similar legislation, and the consistent pattern we have seen is that opposition is often based on operational preference rather than medical or regulatory necessity.

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**Closing**

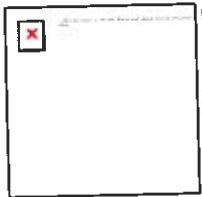
HB 7815 is a narrow, patient-focused bill that preserves existing safety standards while protecting the physician–patient relationship.

I respectfully ask that you consider these clarifications as you review testimony and evaluate the bill.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, I would welcome the opportunity to speak directly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



**Peter J Kikot**

**Web** [blessedbyhisblood.com](http://blessedbyhisblood.com)  
**Email** [PeterJKikot@blessedbyhisblood.com](mailto:PeterJKikot@blessedbyhisblood.com)

**X, formerly Twitter** [@BlessedBHB](https://twitter.com/BlessedBHB)  
**Mail** P.O. Box 21 Anna, Texas 75409

*“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13*