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Written Testimony in Support of HB 7815

Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD
Brown University / Warren Alpert Medical School

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding House Bill 7815.

My name is Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD. I am a physician-scientist and medical oncologist at Brown University, where I am actively involved in the care of patients with complex medical needs, including those requiring transfusion support as part of their treatment.

I am writing to offer a clinical perspective on this legislation.

House Bill 7815 addresses the ability of a patient, in consultation with their physician, to request autologous or directed blood donation when medically appropriate.

From a clinical standpoint, the most important element of this bill is that it preserves physician judgment and discretion. Decisions regarding transfusion support are nuanced and patient-specific, and in certain cases, there may be sound medical, personal, or clinical reasons to consider autologous or directed donation.

It is important to emphasize that this bill does not alter existing safety standards. All blood products used for transfusion in the United States are subject to rigorous FDA-regulated testing and screening protocols. Those safeguards remain fully in place regardless of the source of the blood.

This legislation also does not require the use of directed or autologous blood in any circumstance. Rather, it ensures that when a treating physician determines such an option is appropriate, it can be considered within the framework of existing medical practice.

In my experience, maintaining flexibility in patient care, particularly in complex or high-stakes medical situations, is important. Preserving the ability for physicians and patients to engage in informed discussions about available options can support both clinical decision-making and patient confidence.

HB 7815 does not create new clinical risk, nor does it interfere with established standards of care. It operates within the current regulatory environment while reinforcing the physician-patient relationship.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD
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