

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AJR 13 - oppose

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_ :

I am writing in opposition to AJR 13 by Asm. Tom Ammiano. This resolution asks for the repeal of the current federal ban on blood donations by men who have sex with men. The ban rightly protects the public health, which should be a primary concern of our health agency policies and our legislative leaders who influence that policy.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, “men who have had sex with men since 1977 have an HIV prevalence (the total number of cases of a disease that are present in a population at a specific point in time) 60 times higher than the general population, 800 times higher than first time blood donors and 8000 times higher than repeat blood donors.” In addition, the Centers for Disease Control reports that “[n]early half (48.1%) of all HIV cases in the United States are attributable to men who have sex with men (MSM).”

If just a tiny percentage of the population (most studies find that homosexuals account for less than three percent of the general population) accounts for such a significant portion of HIV cases, banning blood donations from that group makes sense in order to protect our blood supply.

Political correctness should not play a role in public health, but this is the purpose behind this resolution. Please keep current policy and protect our blood supply by opposing AJR 13. I would like to hear how you plan to vote.

Sincerely,