

Holmberg, Jerry A (HHS/OPHS)

From: Amanda Jones [ajones10@stny.rr.com]
ent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 11:16 PM
To: ACBSA
Subject: ban on gay blood

Hello. My name is Amanda Jones and I am a social worker from Binghamton, NY. I am writing to urge you to overturn the ban on blood from gay or bisexual men (or women who have had sex with them) at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability (ACBSA).

As you know, all of the blood is tested before being given to anyone else. Today, the testing is much more advanced than it was in 1983, which was not long after "Gay-related Immune Deficiency" was re-named HIV/AIDS. That was 27 years ago!

Since blood is tested for HIV/AIDS, it makes no sense to discriminate against gay men, particularly if their behavior has NOT put them in risk (safe sex, low # of partners, etc...).

Thank you for listening,

Amanda Jones, MSW