

Holmberg, Jerry A (HHS/OPHS)

From: Bill Wilson [bill.f.wilson@gmail.com]
ent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:13 AM
fo: Holmberg, Jerry A (HHS/OPHS)
Cc: Henry, Richard A (HHS/OPHS)
Subject: Ban on Gay donations

I'm writing to express my support of lifting the ban against gays donating blood that I've learned will be considered by your committee during its meetings on June 10 and 11. I don't know if this is just a pro forma review or whether there is a serious chance that the ban will be lifted, but I am compelled to write. I would like to hope that I might be able to go back to donating blood as I did before the ban was implemented.

I had already earned my two gallon pin before I started doing pheresis donations while living in Washington, DC in the early '80's. I also took part in a study at NIH that involved taking blood samples on a regular basis that were stored for testing at a later date and was part of the SHARE project at John Hopkins in Baltimore. I know my blood was negative for antibodies even before the test was invented because those earlier samples were tested. The ban has not made the blood supply any safer in my case. It has only made the blood supply smaller. I have no idea how many gallons I would have donated in the years that the ban has prevented me from doing what I considered my civic duty.

I request that this letter be made part of the public record and shared with committee members. I appreciate you taking the time to consider my views.

Bill Wilson
215 Edna Street
San FRancisco, CA 94112