

August 9, 2010

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
The Honorable Doris Matsui
United States House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Reauthorization of the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the
National Cord Blood Inventory

Dear Representatives:

I am writing on behalf of the National Marrow Donor Program to convey our strong support of the reauthorization of the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program (Program) and the National Cord Blood Inventory (NCBI). We applaud the efforts of Congressman Young and Congresswoman Matsui in introducing today's legislation and the continued bipartisan support for these life-saving programs. We especially want to thank their staff for their continued efforts. Because the NCBI sunsets at the end of the fiscal year, we encourage the Congress to support passage of this important legislation before October 1.

Every year approximately 12,000 patients search the national registry for a life-saving donor or cord blood unit. To ensure that all patients have access to these types of adult stem cell transplants, Congress must maintain its support of the Program and the NCBI. We commend the dedication of Reps. Young and Matsui, along with Senators Hatch, Dodd, Burr, Reed, Ensign, and Franken who introduced legislation in the Senate last week. Their hard work has resulted in a bipartisan and fiscally responsible bill, which will assist the NMDP in advancing our life-saving mission.

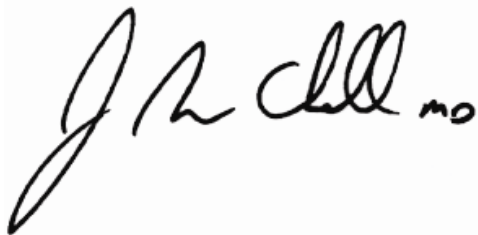
The reauthorization maintains important components of the existing programs, including a single point of access and a focus on building a diverse registry of adult donors and cord blood units. It also includes modifications necessary to continue the successful work of these programs.

The NMDP is dedicated to creating an opportunity for all patients to receive the transplant therapy they need, when they need it. Through a competitive process, the NMDP has been entrusted to operate the Program since its inception in the mid-1980s. Every day, this Program assists thousands of patients with leukemia, certain lymphomas, and other life-threatening diseases find a matching donor or umbilical cord blood unit. For many of these patients, a transplant may be

the best and only hope for a cure. NMDP has facilitated more than 40,000 transplants. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the ongoing sustained support of Congress and its efforts to increase unrelated transplants in the United States.

We look forward to working with the Congress, our network partners in the transplant community including, physicians, cord blood bankers, donors, and the patients and families they serve. On their behalf, we thank you for continued support of cellular transplantation and stand ready to support your efforts for successful passage of this act this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Chell MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "J" and "C" being particularly prominent.

Jeffrey Chell, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer