



March 22, 2018

The Honorable Rob Schaaf
Chairman
Senate Health and Pensions Committee
Missouri General Assembly
201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 423
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

The Honorable Andrew Koenig
Vice Chairman
Senate Health and Pensions Committee
Missouri General Assembly
201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 220
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Chairman Schaaf and Vice Chairman Koenig,

On behalf of the Urgent Care Association of America (UCAOA), I am writing in regard to HB 1953 which is pending before your committee. Knowing how difficult it can be to find matched bone marrow donors, the UCAOA offers its support of HB 1953 and the flexibility that it affords individual physicians to voluntarily participate in the dissemination of information developed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services regarding the bone marrow registry.

The UCAOA can support that an urgent care center may want to participate in this important voluntary state-wide initiative, but with the work load often imposed on health care providers, not all urgent care providers will be able to engage in the dissemination of information about the bone marrow registry to patients seeking medical care in Missouri's urgent care centers.

Since the early 1980s, urgent care centers have been providing care to Americans throughout the United States. Today there are an estimated 7,600 urgent care centers in the United States. According to UCAOA's most recent benchmarking survey, urgent care centers provide more than 88 million patient visits per year making these patient-centric destinations a dominant point of service for health care for millions of Americans. Urgent care centers provide walk-in, extended-hour access for acute illness and injury care that is either beyond the scope and/or the availability of the typical primary care practice or clinic.

Should you have any questions regarding UCAOA's position, please contact Nirja Shah at nshah@ucaoa.org or 630-219-3053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Sullivan".

Pamela Sullivan, MD, MBA, FACEP, PT
Chair, UCAOA Board of Directors

cc: The Honorable Jim Neely