

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 31, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**House Resolution**

**No. 37**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Hill**

August 7, 2012

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House Resolution No. 37—Relative to umbilical cord blood banking.

1       WHEREAS, Umbilical cord blood is rich in hematopoietic, or  
2 blood-forming, stem cells, similar to those found in bone marrow.  
3 Therefore, cord blood can be used as an alternative to bone marrow  
4 in transplants; and

5       WHEREAS, Since the first umbilical cord blood transplant in  
6 1988, the systems for collecting umbilical cord blood for both  
7 public and private use have grown rapidly, both as a treatment for  
8 over 80 medical conditions and as an investigational therapy in  
9 numerous United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)  
10 approved clinical trials; and

11       WHEREAS, The umbilical cord blood industry has grown  
12 rapidly and umbilical cord blood is currently used to treat blood  
13 cancers, such as leukemia, myeloma, and lymphoma, and more  
14 than 80 inherited immunodeficiencies and other genetic and  
15 acquired blood diseases, including sickle cell anemia, thalassemias,  
16 hemoglobinopathies, aplastic anemias, and marrow failure  
17 disorders, and inherited disorders or errors of metabolism; and

18       ~~WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Assembly to assist families~~  
19 ~~who have newborns scoring three or less on the activity, pulse,~~  
20 ~~grimace, appearance, and respiration (Apgar) scale by providing~~  
21 ~~the families access to the stem cells of the newborn. These children~~

1 have a greater likelihood of developing neurological disabilities  
2 that may be helped by advancements in regenerative medicine and  
3 stem cell research to treat diseases like brain injury, cerebral palsy  
4 (CP), and hearing loss; and

5 WHEREAS, According to a 2010 study published in the British  
6 Medical Journal, a low Apgar score was strongly associated with  
7 a later diagnosis of CP. The prevalence of CP in children scoring  
8 less than three on the Apgar scale was more than 130-fold higher  
9 than in children with a score of 10; and

10 WHEREAS, Clinical trials looking at umbilical cord blood stem  
11 cells and CP are ongoing. Dr. James Carroll, pediatric neurologist  
12 at Georgia Health Sciences University, received the first FDA  
13 clearance to run a clinical trial using a child's own umbilical cord  
14 blood stem cells as a potential therapy for children with CP. Other  
15 clinical trials also have been approved by the FDA to evaluate the  
16 use of a child's own umbilical cord blood in regenerative therapies  
17 for diseases and conditions that could not previously be treated,  
18 such as hearing loss, traumatic brain injury, and juvenile diabetes;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, *There is growing evidence of the restorative*  
21 *potential of umbilical cord blood stem cells, and indications that*  
22 *many future therapies may come from cells using the patient's own*  
23 *immune system; and*

24 WHEREAS, There are seven ~~low-Apgar~~ *low-activity, pulse,*  
25 *grimace, appearance, and respiration (Apgar)* umbilical cord  
26 blood stem cell collection programs *using regenerative medicine*  
27 already in place in California, located at Providence Health Systems  
28 in southern California, Southwest Healthcare System at Inland  
29 Valley Medical Center, Southwest Healthcare System at Rancho  
30 Springs Medical Center, Hoag Memorial Hospital in Newport  
31 Beach, Washington Hospital in Fremont, John Muir Medical Center  
32 in Walnut Creek, and Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City; and

33 WHEREAS, These hospitals contract with an accredited  
34 umbilical cord blood bank that provides collection kits and  
35 processing in order to provide this service, under a memorandum  
36 of understanding. As part of the contract, training is provided to  
37 ensure quality collection, sufficient collection volume, and sterility  
38 to ensure eligibility for acceptance in FDA-regulated clinical trials  
39 for CP; and

1 WHEREAS, Not all umbilical cord blood samples collected  
2 specifically for public banks and bone marrow or cord blood  
3 transplants are available for transplantation; and

4 WHEREAS, The remaining public banking units should be  
5 provided to research institutions to explore the potential of  
6 umbilical cord blood stem cells to treat many debilitating and lethal  
7 medical conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, The federal government enacted the Stem Cell  
9 Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 to collect and maintain  
10 umbilical cord blood for public use in transplantation and research;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The National Marrow Donor Program, in a recent  
13 plea to states to help increase the national umbilical cord blood  
14 public inventory, declared that states can help expand the number  
15 of publicly available umbilical cord blood units by appropriating  
16 additional resources for the collection and storage of units; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*  
19 *Assembly encourages acute care hospitals to participate in free*  
20 *collection programs for umbilical cord blood and cord tissue in*  
21 *order to maximize the potential medical benefits that umbilical*  
22 *cord blood therapies can provide; and be it further*

23 *Resolved, That the Assembly encourages acute care hospitals*  
24 *to participate in free collection programs that provide parents of*  
25 *children born in those hospitals ~~who have an activity, pulse,~~*  
26 *~~grimace, appearance, and respiration (Apgar) score of three or less~~*  
27 *~~at five minutes,~~ with the option of storing the child's umbilical*  
28 *cord blood and cord tissue, at no cost to the parent, in order that*  
29 *the umbilical cord blood and cord tissue may be used for*  
30 *therapeutic purposes as therapies become medically available; and*  
31 *be it further*

32 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*  
33 *of this resolution to the State Department of Public Health and the*  
34 *California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.*

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