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February 6, 2019

Members of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Re: Bill S-252, Voluntary Blood Donations Act (An Act to amend the Blood Regulations)

Honourable Senators,

It has come to our attention that some supporters of Bill S-252 are using the argument that compensated plasma collection is a threat to Canada's whole blood supply. Indeed, the way that this bill has been named is in itself misleading.

Representing a patient community that relies on the donation of whole blood, the Thalassemia Foundation of Canada wishes to share with the Senate Committee that we do not see compensating donors for their plasma as a threat to the treatment we receive, or to the safety and supply of blood for Canadians who need it.

The United States currently operates a robust voluntary whole blood donation system alongside a paid plasma collection system that meets a large percentage to the world's plasma demand – the two can operate side by side, it does not have to be one or the other.

We urge the Committee to report against Bill S-252, leaving the door open for the compensated collection of plasma and allowing Canada to have a full toolbox of options when it comes to increasing our self-sufficiency of this crucial ingredient for plasma derived medicinal products.

Sincerely,

Helen Ziavras
President
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