

To: Representative Jonathan Steinberg, Co- Chair
Senator Terry B Gerratana, Co-Chair
Senator Heather B. Somers, Co-Chair
Senator Ted Kennedy, Vice Chair
Senator George S. Logan, Vice Chair
Representative Dorinda Borer, Vice Chair
Representative Prasad Srinivasan, Ranking Member

From: Pam Lucashu, Durham CT

Representative Steinberg, Senators Gerratana, Somers, Kennedy, and Logan, and Representatives Borer and Srinivasan, and Members of the Public Health Committee, ***I ask you to vote no on HB 5160, An Act Concerning the Donation of Blood by Minors.***

There is an increased risk of adverse events among 16 and 17 year olds, which include near fainting or fainting, with resulting head injuries, dental injuries and lacerations. ¹ Those who suffered a complication were 20% less likely to donate in the future.

Donation by minors without parental consent is an unnecessary invasion of parental rights. Blood donation drives at high schools can be advertised in advance, which permits sixteen year olds to donate with the consent of their parents. Testimony in 2013 by health care workers experienced with high school blood drives expressed concern that peer pressure would lead teens to hide important health information when donating. ²

Please guard the health of our youth and preserve parental rights by voting no on HB 5160.

¹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/181935>

² <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/jfr/h/2013HB-06331-R00KID-JFR.htm>