



May 13, 2025

Attn: The Honorable Chair Roemer
Committee on Ways and Means
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Roemer and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. Our organization, National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), writes in support of H.B. 122, which establishes a nonrefundable tax credit for private employers who offer paid leave for their employees undergoing the process of altruistic organ or bone marrow donation. Ensuring that employees have the necessary time off to complete this life-saving process is a critical step in increasing donation rates and ultimately saving patient lives.

Patients with life-threatening blood cancers and disorders who do not have a fully matched donor in their family depend on altruistic strangers to step up and donate bone marrow or blood cells, which can treat or cure over 75 blood cancers and disorders. NMDP operates the national bone marrow and blood cell donor registry, giving patients access to more than 42 million potential donors. Nearly 174,000 Ohioans are members of the national registry, meaning they could receive a call to save a stranger's life.

For patients in need of a bone marrow or blood cell transplant, the stakes couldn't be higher. Many patients have only one suitable match on the national registry—sometimes their only chance for survival. If that donor is unable to proceed due to job-related concerns, the outcome can be devastating.

At NMDP, we frequently hear from potential donors who are willing to help but feel they can't afford to risk lost wages—or worse, their jobs. Incentivizing employers to provide their employees with time off to complete the donation process will mean no one has to choose between saving a life and maintaining their livelihood.

Bone marrow and blood cell donation typically involves around 40 non-consecutive hours over a four-to-six-week period. This time is needed for medical evaluations, preparation, the donation itself, and recovery. Without job protections and protected time off, many willing donors—especially those in hourly, non-salaried, or lower-wage positions—face a heartbreaking decision. H.B. 122 is crucial legislation that incentivizes employers to provide time off for their employees, and will save more lives, reduce time to transplant, and provide an administratively simple solution for employers. Please vote in support of H.B. 122.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Anne Simaytis
Senior National Advocacy Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy
National Marrow Donor Program