

Mayor right about blood-donor ban

I would like to commend Campbell Mayor Evan Low for pressuring the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to end the discriminatory ban on blood donations from gay men.

Last year, our organization submitted a resolution that was adopted by the California Medical Association, and subsequently adopted this past June by the American Medical Association, calling on the FDA to end the ban once for all.

As physicians, we recognize that patient safety must always be the primary determinant of who can donate blood, but the current lifetime ban on gay male blood donors is no longer appropriate or reflective of current scientific knowledge.

Instead, we believe the FDA should develop policies that are nondiscriminatory and based on individual risk, instead of being based solely on sexual orientation.

Jeffrey Klingman, M.D.
*President
Alameda-Contra Costa
Medical Association
Oakland*