

Greetings Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care,

Testimony in **Support SB 744:** *Act of Oregon Health authority to Adopt Rule providing for dissemination of information by Health Care Practitioner to patients concerning bone marrow donations*

My name is Rico Dence the founder of the Great Ribbon Rally. I been asking legislators in all 50 States to purpose and pass the legislation.

Why is it important for legislators to adopt SB 744. Many Americans are unaware and/or misinformed of the bone marrow registry, and bone marrow donation procedure. Some people think being organ donor on your license makes you a bone marrow donor. People do not know you have to be alive to be a bone marrow donor. Giving bone marrow does not compromise the immune system of a bone marrow donor. Your body naturally regrows the bone marrow in 4-6 weeks, for the bone marrow procedure only removes 3-5 percent of bone marrow.

People think the same bone marrow procedure done in the 1970 is the same procedure they do today. Today surgeries are less invasive and painful. Approximately 20% of all bone marrow donations is collected from both hipbones through a needle. You're under anesthesia for this procedure, meaning you'll be asleep and free of any pain.

Today! 80 Percent of Bone Marrow Transplants happened though Peripheral blood stem cells.

In 1986, the first Peripheral Stem Cell Transplants took place, and still people are miss informed of the procedure. Approximately 80% of all bone marrow donation is now done though the process Peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC). PBSC donation is one of two methods of collecting blood-forming cells for bone marrow transplants. The same blood-forming cells that are found in bone marrow are also found in the circulating (peripheral) blood. On the day of your PBSC donation, your blood is removed through a needle in one arm and passed through a machine that will collect only the blood-forming cells. The remaining blood is returned to you through a needle in the other arm. This process is similar to what is used when donating blood platelets.

1. Why is it critical we increase the pool of Registered Bone marrow donors?
 - a. The **only cure** for some cancer patients is a bone marrow donation
 - b. 98 % of Americans are **not registered** bone marrow donors
 - c. 70 % of all bone marrow donations come from non-family members
 - d. Less than 40 % of people who need a bone marrow transplant find a match
 - e. **Who would benefit form a bone marrow donation?**
 - i. Every 9 minutes a person dies from blood cancer, and some of the people could have been saved with a bone marrow donation.
 - ii. Every 3 min a person is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
 - iii. Infants to 75 years old can receive a bone marrow donation to cure their cancer and save lives.

Only 2% of Americans are registered bone marrow donors. By Passing SB 744 will increase the pool of registered bone marrow donors, and you will be saving lives across America and the world.

Sincerely

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Founder

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