

Dear **STUDENT ORG**,

INTRODUCTION. Sexually active queer men cannot donate blood under the FDA's deferment policy. This policy is outdated, not based in science, and is reminiscent of the prejudice that ran rampant during the AIDs crisis. This policy has been in some form or another since the 1980s, with a lifetime ban in place from 1985-2015, a 12 month ban in place from 2015-2020, and a current 3 month deferment policy.

The nation is currently in the worst blood shortage in years, and the FDA is still choosing to turn away healthy donors rather than update their policies to practices backed by current research. Pride and Plasma has worked with the ADVANCE Study, which is working to provide evidence that a transition to an Individualized Risk Assessment would provide no greater risk to the blood supply.

The FDA has scheduled the next meeting of the Blood Products Advisory Committee for December 8th, 2022. We need as many people to show their support for a policy change for the best chance of ending the ban. So, how can you help?

- Share our information with your members, and get them talking about the policy
- Ask them to sign our petition, and ask them to share it with others
- Follow us on social media and engage with our work
- If eligible, donate blood. Patients are suffering due to a low supply, and donating blood is one of the best ways to help minimize the impact of the current shortage.

Pride and Plasma would be more than happy to present at a meeting or discuss more individually. Please let me know your thoughts and if we can facilitate a connection.

Sincerely,

Signature

www.prideandplasma.com

<https://linktr.ee/prideandplasma>

<https://instagram.com/prideandplasma>

Petition:

https://www.change.org/p/end-the-fda-s-ban-on-queer-men-donating-blood?recruiter=1269895765&recruited_by_id=43583220-f69b-11ec-80be-03b20544fe6b&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=share_for_starters_page&utm_medium=copylink