

**Opening Statement**  
**Rep. Doris O. Matsui**  
**House Energy and Commerce Committee**  
**Full Committee Markup of H.R. 985, H.R. 3154, H.R. 1344, H.R.**  
**1462, H.R. 1725, and H.R. 2820**  
**July 29, 2015**

Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone, thank you for calling up HR 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015, for markup today.

I want to thank my colleagues, as well as Health Subcommittee Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Green, for their support of this legislation. We advanced this bill on a bipartisan basis from Health Subcommittee last week, and I urge my colleagues to advance it out of the full Committee today so that we can consider the bill on the floor before the program expires this September.

This legislation will reauthorize funding for the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, otherwise known as “Be The Match”. It will also reauthorize the National Cord Blood Inventory.

These programs provide hope to the thousands of Americans who suffer from blood cancers or other blood disorders and are searching for a match to a life-saving bone marrow or cord blood transplant. Every 4 minutes, someone is diagnosed with blood cancer or another blood disorder. Often, the only cure for these fatal diseases is a bone marrow or cord blood transplant.

During the last 30 years, the national registry of bone marrow donors and cord blood units has grown to include 11 million adult volunteer donors and 193,000 cord blood units. The growth of the registry over the last decade is promising, but we must continue our efforts to encourage donors.

The bone marrow registry and cord blood bank also support critical medical research that improves patient outcomes for the more than 70 conditions for which transplant is a cure and helps us to find ways to battle additional conditions.

The C.W. Bill Young Transplantation Program also includes the Office of Patient Advocacy, which helps patients navigate the complexities of the health care system as they battle life-threatening diseases.

I want to tell the story that inspired former Congressman C.W. Bill Young to work on this critical legislation. Mr. Young met an 11-year-old girl named Brandy at a hospital in his district in Florida back in 1987.

Brandy was admitted to the hospital with a form of leukemia for which the only treatment was a bone marrow transplant, but she had no siblings and thus no chance for finding a matched donor. The night that she died, our former colleague, Bill Young asked Brandy's doctors what could have been done. They said the answer would have been a transplant from an unrelated donor.

The program we are working to reauthorize today could have made that possible. Finding a match is the key necessary to unlock the potential cure that a bone marrow or cord blood transplant offers. The legislation we move forward today will give patients and their families hope of access to a curative transplant.

I thank you again for taking up this important legislation, and my colleagues for their support, especially co-lead of this reauthorization, Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey, and original cosponsors Representatives David Jolly of Florida and Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania.

I hope that we can move this legislation swiftly to passage before the Program expires at the end of September. Thank you, I yield back.