

Subcommittee Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Green, thank you for marking up H.R. 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic Cell Transplantation and Research Reauthorization Act today.

As I noted in our hearing in June, this legislation provides hope to the thousands of Americans searching for a match for a bone marrow or cord blood transplant.

It also supports critical medical research to improve patient outcomes for the more than 70 diseases and conditions for which transplant is a cure, and helps us to find ways to battle additional diseases and conditions.

This legislation will reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match.

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 donated by moms after the birth of their babies.

Through international relationships, Americans now have access to 24.5 million additional potential donors and 622,000 cord blood units worldwide.

In addition to this national resource, the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program also includes the Stem Cell Therapeutic Outcomes Database, which facilitates research to help improve access to transplant by better understanding the matching process.

The 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 understand firsthand how important it is to find the right match. It 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 I hope that we can move it swiftly toward passage before the Program expires at the end of September.