March 6, 2026

Assemblymember Phillip Chen
Vice Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 4620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Chen,

The Liver Coalition of San Diego | Liver Coalition of California was formed by medical specialists, transplant surgeons, patients, caregivers, and health advocates to promote liver health and meet the needs of those affected by liver disease. *Our mission is to save lives by improving liver health and preventing liver disease through community-based education, linkages to care, advocacy and research programs.*

I am writing to you to thank you for your leadership in introducing Assembly Bill 2009 and express our strong support for the legislation. By modernizing regulations governing the collection of source plasma AB 2009 will help ensure California can meet the growing clinical need for plasma-derived medicines, which help treat complex, life-threatening conditions like immune deficiencies and bleeding disorders.

Plasma, the straw-colored liquid portion of blood, is packed with proteins that support critical body functions. These proteins help reduce complications associated with pregnancy, play a supportive role in cancer care, protect against infections like tetanus, replenish lost fluids in burn patients, and prevent excess blood loss during shock and trauma. And, because plasma can't be made in a lab, donations from healthy donors are the only way to create certain medicines that are essential for individuals living with liver disease, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, a rare genetic disorder that can lead to severe lung and liver disease.

Additionally, plasma offers hope for rare liver diseases such as Wilson disease, a genetic disorder causing copper accumulation in the liver and other organs, as plasma exchange is being studied as a potential treatment option. It is also the current standard of care for Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, where plasma-based augmentation therapy is used to slow the progression of lung damage due to Alpha-1. However, it does not address the liver manifestations of the disease.

California is now one of only 10 states in the nation that does not collect enough plasma to meet the needs of its own patients. This forces patients to rely on long, out-of-state supply chains for critical therapies, increasing the risk of delays, shortages, and disruptions in care.

AB 2009 will modernize these regulations, allowing centers to operate more efficiently while maintaining strict safety standards. For the patients we serve, this legislation is about more than regulatory modernization, it is about reliability and peace of mind. When plasma supply is stable, patients can focus on living their lives, managing their conditions, and staying healthy, rather than worrying about whether their next treatment will be available.

We strongly urge Assembly Health to pass this bill and ensure all Californians can access the life-saving treatments they need, when they need them. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Suckow
Executive Director

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CC: Members, Assembly Health Committee