

Dispatch: FDA s Bad Blood

By ACSH Staff — May 18, 2010

The public policy director for Gay Men’s Health Crisis in New York has a [letter to the editor](#) [1] in *The New York Times* about an FDA rule prohibiting any man who has had sex with another man, even once, since 1977, from donating blood: “Advancements in technology, which can detect H.I.V. in blood within days or weeks of infection, render this policy obsolete. The unnecessary exclusion of large numbers of H.I.V.-negative blood donors may harm people in need of blood transfusions. A thorough review of alternative policies is both timely and necessary.”

“I wrote essentially the [same thing](#) [2] two years ago for *The Huffington Post*,” says Stier. “If there really is such a critical shortage of blood like there always seems to be, you would think they would allow these donors to give, especially since there are such effective screening procedures these days.”

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Links

[1] http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/18/health/18lett-TURNINGAWAYB_LETTERS.html

[2] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeff-stier/blood-for-sale_b_52046.html