



Ohio January 2019 Blood Donor Awareness Month Timeline:



Dr. Stephen Huffman of Tipp City, Ohio is a member of the Ohio House of Representative for the 80th District, chairman of the House Health Committee, emergency room physician, and life-long blood donor. **On Nov. 6, 2018 he won election to Ohio's 5th Senate District.**

In an April 2017 interview with Community Blood Center about his personal experience as a donor Rep. Huffman discussed his interest in legislation to advocate for blood donations in Ohio. He soon introduced House Bill 252 to designate January as Ohio "Blood Donor Awareness Month." He enlisted the support of CBC and the Ohio Association of Blood Banks to give proponent testimony.

House Health Committee Hearing – Nov. 14, 2017



CBC submitted written testimony from blood recipients and organized the oral testimony presented by CBC, the Ohio Association of Blood Banks, and two CBC lifelong blood donors for the Sept. 13, 2017 House Health Committee Hearing, chaired by Rep. Huffman; and the Nov. 14, 2017 Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee Hearing.

CBC Donor Relations Director Andrew Keelor, Ohio Association of Blood Banks board member Dr. Elizabeth Biller, and Dayton attorney and blood donor Judith LaMusga all testified before the House Health Committee.

"There is no medical substitute for human blood when a patient is in need," said Keelor. "This ongoing need and the very perishable nature of blood demand a continuous, deliberate and dedicated effort to recruit new volunteer blood donors. Reminding the public of this awesome responsibility and vital need would be the greatest benefit of Ohio Blood Donor Awareness Month."

Keelor said the young now represent the next generation of donors. More than half of current donors are "Baby Boomers," loyal donors who are reaching an age when they donate less frequently, can no longer donate, or may need blood transfusions.

“I know I can save a life,” said LaMusga, who at age 74 has made 469 lifetime blood donations. “I intend to continue donating as long as I possibly can. Volunteers need to be on the rise and we need to be out there donating.”

Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee Hearing - Nov. 14, 2017



Andrew Keelor and Dr. Elizabeth Biller again testified before the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, along with Botkins donor Susan Leugers on Nov. 14, 2017. Susan organized a Botkins blood drive in honor of her daughter Chelsea who died of cancer in 2010 at the age of 22.

The bill received unanimous bipartisan support with a vote of 93-0 in the House and 32-0 in the Senate. Ohio Gov. John Kasich signed it into law on Feb. 8, 2018.

America’s Blood Centers Honors Rep. Steve Huffman – March 19, 2018

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona - America’s Blood Centers, North America’s largest network of independent blood centers, honored Rep. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City) with the 2018 Larry Frederick Award for his leadership in raising statewide awareness about blood donations at the 21st Annual Awards of Excellence March 19, 2018 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Community Blood Center in Dayton nominated Rep. Huffman for the Larry Frederick Award for introducing House Bill 252, designating January as “Blood Donor Awareness Month” in Ohio. The Larry Frederick Award honors an individual for community leadership in raising awareness of the need for blood donations.

April 2017 CBC Profile: Why Rep. Steve Huffman Believes in Blood Donations

“I grew up in West Milton and went to Milton-Union High School. I went to University of Toledo for undergraduate - played football there – and then to medical school at Toledo when it was called the Medical College of Ohio.

My mom and dad gave blood on a regular basis. When I was a resident at ‘St. E’ (now the Medical Center at Elizabeth Place) I saw people giving blood, how important it was to give blood, and the whole process.

I started donating when I was at St. E. I found out I was O negative and CMV negative I would come down to the Dayton Community Blood Center and donate on a regular basis, while I was a resident and afterwards.

(Note: Steve Huffman is both a “Universal Donor” and a “Baby Donor.” His blood type is O negative, which any patient in need can receive. He’s also a CMV-negative donor, which means he has not been exposed to the cytomegalovirus. Hospitals prefer CMV-negative blood for pediatric units to ensure the safety of blood transfusions to newborns).

My wife Kathryn and I met when we were both undergraduates at Toledo. She went to law school while I was in medical school and is now a guardian ad litem in Miami and Darke Counties.

Our first child (daughter Libby) was born when I was at St. E and was six months old when we went overseas for a year and half to help the underserved with medical needs. It was important to my wife and I.

On Feb. 10, 1998 my son Will and his twin sister Allison were born at Miami Valley Hospital at 28 weeks, 12 weeks premature. They spent six weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit. The neonatologist said he would benefit from receiving blood. I made the arrangement for a direct donation.



As a parent, if you could give that to your child, and having been a blood donor for a long time, it wasn’t new to me. They were very good at Miami Valley to let us do that.

(Note: Their daughter Libby is now in medical school. Twins Will and Allison and daughter Ashely is are at the University of Notre Dame and their youngest son Jack is at Chaminade Julianne High School. All are blood donors).

For the last nine years we’ve been taking a CJ group to Belize for a service trip. We go to a school and paint, clean, build – whatever they need us to do.”

As a physician I practice emergency medicine (at the Upper Valley Medical Center and Wayne Health). I appreciate what Community Blood Center does for my patients and other people. My son knows what he needed when he was born. I was happy to be able to donate to him and to others that were in need of my blood.”