

A Resolution calling for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to remove any blood donation restrictions based on sexual orientation

Sponsored by: YDA Southeast Region Director Ryan Terrell (FL), Ricky Nettina (FL), Shannon Love (FL), Melanie Tolchin (FL), Darren Mason (FL), YDA Executive Vice-President Constantina Meis (NJ), YDA 3rd Vice President Daniel Sims (AR), YDA Midwest Region Director Hannah Wroblewski (NE), YDA Disability Caucus Chair Laura Thein (DE)

Whereas, The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently does not permit the donation of blood by men who have had sex with other men (MSM) at any point in the past year; and

Whereas, Numerous public health groups including the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks, America's Blood Centers, the American Medical Association (AMA) and leading LGBT and HIV/AIDS organizations have urged that the FDA's restrictions be revised; and

Whereas, The AMA has called for individual testing assessments instead of a blanket policy based on sexual orientation; and

Whereas, According to the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, an estimated 360,600 additional men are likely to donate in the case of a complete lifting of the ban; and

Whereas, The Williams Institute estimates that lifting the ban on MSM donors could help save the lives of more than a million people; and

Whereas, the Young Democrats of America are firmly committed to our shared values of fairness, equality, and policy based on scientific facts instead of outdated assumptions; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Young Democrats of America call on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to remove any blood donation restrictions based on sexual orientation; and

Therefore, Be It Also Resolved, that the Young Democrats of America urge the Democratic National Committee Platform Committee to consider adding language to the 2016 Convention Platform calling for the elimination of these restrictions