

HCS SCS SB 17 -- CORD BLOOD BANKING

SPONSOR: Lembke (Sater)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute requires the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services to post on its web site resources relating to umbilical cord blood that have been developed by the Parent's Guide to Cord Blood Foundation or a successor organization which includes an explanation of the potential value and uses of umbilical cord blood, including cord blood cells and stem cells; the differences between using one's own blood cord cells and using related or unrelated cord blood stem cells in the treatment of disease; the differences between public and private cord blood banking; various options available to a mother for donating, storing, or discarding cord blood; and other specified subjects. Beginning October 1, 2011, every health care provider who provides obstetrical or gynecological care to a pregnant woman, except a provider providing emergency care, can make available to the patient prior to the beginning of her third trimester or, if later, at her first visit the information posted on the department's web site regarding umbilical cord blood banking.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill increases the awareness of the benefits of cord blood banking and its availability.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Lembke; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Catholic Conference; and Missouri Nurses Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.