

## **New law encourages 16 year olds to donate blood**

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On April 12, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels signed Senate Bill 46 into law, after it passed both the House and Senate. This bill allows 16 year olds to donate blood in the State of Indiana with parental consent. The American Red Cross hails the new law as a new opportunity to engage youth in regular blood donations.

Previously, Indiana State law was silent on the issue of 16 year old blood donations. The law will go into effect on July 2, 2010 and will encourage 16 years old to donate blood with parental consent in the State. This means that now more high school students can help save a life by donating blood.

The American Red Cross is excited to spread awareness that blood donation is something a 16 year old students can do to make a difference in their community. 23 states, including Ohio and Kentucky, already have written laws that specifically encourage 16 year olds to donate blood.