

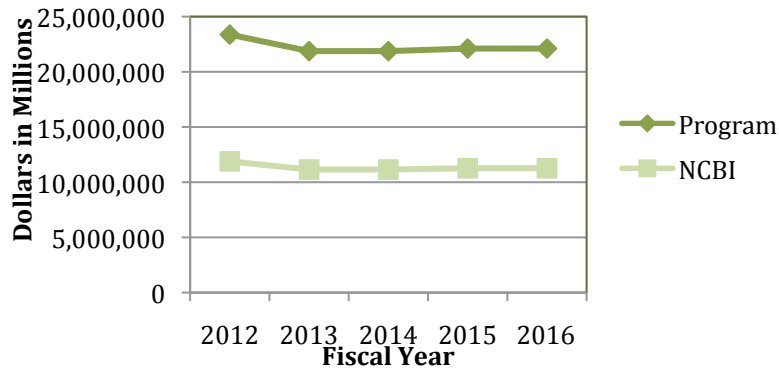


**PROTECT ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING CURES:
MAINTAIN THE COMMITMENT TO AMERICANS WITH BLOOD CANCERS AND
BLOOD DISORDERS**

- **The Commitment:** *With the establishment of a national bone marrow registry in the mid-1980's*, Congress promised patients with blood cancers, like leukemia and lymphoma, and other life-threatening diseases that they would have a way to find a life-saving donor match.
- **The Success of the Registry:** Today, this national registry (known as the Be The Match® Registry) serves as the single point of access for patients to matched adult volunteer donors, as well as cord blood units. Physicians rely upon these cells to perform adult stem cell transplants that can cure more than 70 otherwise fatal, diseases or conditions, including blood cancers and sickle cell disease. At the same time, the role of the registry is expanding to provide donors and services for other non-embryonic cellular therapies that will improve the health of many more patients in the future. The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), which operates the registry through a successful public-private partnership with the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), has grown the registry to include 16 million donors and 238,000 cord blood units, including 93,000 National Cord Blood Inventory (NCBI) units. Through international relationships, the NMDP has access to more than 29 million additional potential donors and 712,000 cord blood units worldwide.

More work is needed to protect access to life-saving transplants

- **Relatively Flat Funding Levels.** The last five years of funding for the Program and NCBI have remained relatively flat, as the chart below indicates.



- **Protect Access to Life-Saving Transplants.** Every dollar allocated by the Congress helps increase the number of donors and cord blood units on the registry, assists patients in navigating the complexities of the health care system, and supports research to discover and apply the best therapies to improve patient outcomes. Further diversification of the registry is extremely important as we continue to expand access to treat more diseases such as sickle cell disease. For each \$1 million the Congress adds to the Program, 10,000 donors will be added to the registry. For each \$1 million it adds to the NCBI, an additional 667 cord blood units will be collected and stored.

For FY 2018, the Congress should increase funding for the Program and the NCBI to improve patient access to innovative, life-saving transplants.