

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match Applauds Reintroduction of Critical, Life-Saving Legislation

*The TRANSPLANT Act would reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, which provides lifesaving bone marrow and umbilical cord blood transplants to patients in need*

**MINNEAPOLIS – February 9, 2021** – National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/Be The Match® applauds its Senate and House champions for the simultaneous introduction of the TRANSPLANT Act which reauthorizes the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) are the lead sponsors of the Timely Reauthorization of Necessary Stem-cell Programs Lends Access to Needed Therapies Act (S. 288 and H.R. 941) this year, as they were in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Last year, the House and Senate both passed the TRANSPLANT Act unanimously. Unfortunately, the legislative schedule fell victim to the COVID-19 pandemic before the bill could receive final approval.

“The TRANSPLANT Act’s bipartisan co-sponsors, Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN), Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) and Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) have joined Sen. Reed and Rep. Matsui as true champions for the thousands of Americans living with blood cancers or disorders. Our organization and the patients we serve are extremely grateful for their leadership and continued efforts to expand access to bone marrow transplants,” said NMDP/Be The Match Chief Policy Officer Brian Lindberg. “Now that the bill has been introduced, we strongly urge Congress to continue its legacy of bipartisan and bicameral support through final passage. The patients who rely on the Program are counting on it.”

Since its inception in the mid-1980s, NMDP/Be The Match has been entrusted by Congress to operate the Program and has facilitated more than 100,000 transplants, giving patients with otherwise fatal blood cancers or blood disorders a second chance at life.

This national program status has been critical in continuing to facilitate transplants during the unparalleled challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. Despite the pandemic, NMDP/Be The Match set a record for the number of transplants facilitated in Fiscal Year 2020.

“With every reauthorization, Congress has stood with the patients we serve. We are so thankful for our Congressional champions and look forward to continued bipartisan support so that every American who needs a transplant can find a match,” said Lindberg. “The unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on cellular therapy delivery have made our designation as the nation’s registry even more critical for our ability to work with both Federal partners and foreign governments to ensure the timely delivery of donated bone marrow to patients.

[About Be The Match®](#)

For people with life-threatening blood cancers—like leukemia and lymphoma—or other diseases, a cure exists. Be The Match connects patients with their donor match for a life-saving marrow or umbilical cord

blood transplant. People can contribute to the cure as a member of the Be The Match Registry®, financial contributor or volunteer. Be The Match provides patients and their families one-on-one support, education, and guidance before, during and after transplant.

Be The Match is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), a nonprofit organization that matches patients with donors, educates health care professionals and conducts research through its research program, CIBMTR® (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research®), so more lives can be saved. To learn more about the cure, visit [BeTheMatch.org](http://BeTheMatch.org) or call 1 (800) MARROW-2.