
We're suing Grifols for banning gay men from donating plasma.

From ACLU of Oregon

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To ACLU of Oregon



ACLU Supporter –

Today, the ACLU of Oregon, along with our legal partners, Shenoa Payne Attorney

at Law, Beacon Employment Law, and Keller Rohrback Law Offices, filed a class action lawsuit against a company named Grifols for enforcing a discriminatory blanket ban that effectively prohibits gay and bisexual men from donating plasma at its Oregon donation centers. This violates Oregon public accommodations laws.

READ OUR PRESS RELEASE

We're defending the rights of John Cavanaugh, who went to the Grifols Talecris Plasma Donation Center in Eugene to donate plasma. As an openly gay man, Mr. Cavanaugh answered "yes" on the initial questionnaire that asked whether he has ever had sexual contact with another man." Because of that answer, Grifols told Mr. Cavanaugh that he was forever banned from donating his plasma.

Grifols enforced its discriminatory policy against Mr. Cavanaugh even though he had a negative blood test for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and has no history of STIs, and Grifols tests plasma for STIs after it is donated.

Grifols' policy is contrary to current FDA policy, which recommends an individualized health assessment and not blanket bans against any group of people, including gay and bisexual men.

By sharing his experiences in court, Mr. Cavanaugh hopes to force companies to evaluate and change discriminatory practices and policies. "I want to dispel harmful, false myths about the LGBTQ+ community and to ensure that the medical and business communities stop perpetuating and operating on myths about the LGBTQ+ community. No one should experience the discrimination and denial I did just because of who they are or who they love." [Read Mr. Cavanaugh's blog to learn more about his experience.](#)

The ACLU of Oregon is proud to defend Mr. Cavanaugh. In Oregon, we believe lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people have the right to live openly without discrimination and to enjoy equal rights, freedom, and personal autonomy the same as all Oregonians.

Thank you for supporting us in this fight,

Kelly Simon

Pronouns: She, her, hers

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