

## Is John Kerry right?

Written by Barthélemy Barbancourt  
Thursday, 04 March 2010 14:00 -

---

[Sen. John Kerry called on the government Thursday to abolish a "discriminatory" law that bars homosexual men in the U.S. from donating blood, saying "not a single piece of scientific evidence supports the ban."](#)

*"The three largest blood donation organizations in our country -- the American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers, and AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) -- all agree calling the ban 'medically and scientifically unwarranted,'" wrote Kerry.*

*Gay rights group have also decried the practice both in the United Kingdom and the United States. The Gay Men's Health Center reported last month that the ban was created at a time when the transmission of HIV was unknown and creates a stigma that is inconsistent because straight people who have sex with "commercial sex workers" only have to wait a year before donating blood.*

*The group adds that the chronic shortages of blood should be proof enough that limiting gay donors is self-destructive.*

*Part of the shortage may be due to **the fact only three of every 100** Americans donate blood, according to the American Red Cross. The agency has a long list of eligibility rules on its [Web site](#)*

.□

I believe that all blood donations are tested for AIDS. Would allowing gays to donate seriously taint our blood supply or would it result in more donated blood with minimal added risk?