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## *House of Representatives*

*Statement of Congressman Michael N. Castle*

*In Honor of*

*The Brady Kohn Foundation*

*March 7, 2006*

**Mr. Castle.** Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Brady Kohn Foundation and its founders, Carolyn and Andy Kohn. The Kohn's began their foundation to honor a wonderful little boy, their son Brady, whose life on this earth was all too short. The work of this Foundation centers around the use of Umbilical cord blood, a safe and painless way to retrieve valuable stem cells, which can be used to save the lives of many Americans. I welcome the initiative taken by the partnership of Christiana Care Hospital, the The Elie Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program at Community Blood Services, and the Brady Kohn Foundation to publicly bank cord blood. This is the first step into truly cutting edge medical research.

I am very familiar with the dedication of The Brady Kohn Foundation's founding members. Carolyn and Andy have worked tirelessly to achieve a partnership that would enable expectant mothers to have their umbilical cord blood publicly banked at no cost. The Brady Kohn Foundation will be the leader in education, awareness, and promotion of this project, inspiring expectant mothers to bank their cord blood in hopes of saving the lives of others. Christiana Care is an excellent choice for this project as they are home to approximately 7,000 deliveries per year. Of the cord blood collected, roughly 60 percent will be banked and used for medical procedures such as bone marrow transplants, while the other 40 percent will be used for research that has the potential to heal countless diseases in the future.

I recognize the struggle that the Kohn's have gone through to reach their goal of providing a public umbilical cord banking system. I would like to thank Carolyn, Andy, and all those involved with this valuable project. I am certain the new public cord blood banking system will have a tremendous impact on many lives in my home state of Delaware and around the United States.