<<Date>>

The Honorable «FirstName» «LastName»

Pennsylvania State Senator/Representative

«Address1»

«Address\_2»

«City», «State» «Zip»

RE: PENNSYLVANIA STATE SUPPORT FOR HEMOPHILIA TREATMENT CENTERS

Dear «Title» «LastName»:

Hemophilia care has been continuously funded since 1973 by a line item in the State budget.

Currently, 7 Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTC’s) provide care to nearly 2300 of an estimated 3000 persons with hemophilia, von Willebrand and related inherited bleeding disorders living in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All have experienced multi-disciplinary teams to provide state of the art care, and all are part of a federal network of 140 HTCs throughout the country which are funded in part by income from a regional grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Based on population estimates, this constituency is well served throughout the Commonwealth by these 7 centers, which are the only entities that have been shown to be capable of delivering these services for nearly 47 years.

For FY 20-21, the proposed model for funding will be shifted to a Request for Application (RFA) using a regional approach based on the PA HealthChoices map of 5 regions, with one grant awarded to each of the 5 regions. However, the 7 HTCs are located in only 3 of the 5 regions: 4 in Philadelphia and 2 in the Lehigh Valley region.

Under the current funding model, 7 HTCs provide care to persons with hemophilia residing in 90% (60/67) of the counties throughout Pennsylvania. In the proposed model, these 7 HTCs will be pitted against each other, competing for 5 awards based on population estimates of affected individuals in “underserved areas” in the northeast and northwest counties. It should be noted that these 7 “underserved” counties without an identified hemophilia patient have a combined population of 78,667, and all 7 are adjacent to counties where residents now receive services from one of the 7 HTCs.

It is highly unlikely that a new applicant based in the Northeast or Northwest region can provide comprehensive services comparable to those now being provided by HRSA HTC grantees. Collectively, these HTCs save patient’s lives and save Pennsylvania money by offering comprehensive care to reduce or prevent complications from bleeding.

Pennsylvania laid the foundation for building a nationwide network of federally supported HTCs that have provided comprehensive care to persons with hemophilia and related inherited bleeding disorders such as von Willebrand disease throughout all 50 states. These HTCs have been highly successful over the past 40 years in reducing morbidity and mortality of these individuals.

Please ensure that the model for hemophilia funding for FY 20-21 will not compromise the care of those who are currently followed at one of the 7 HTCs locate throughout the Commonwealth. Do not permit the reduction in the number of awards from 7 to 5, based on the PA HealthChoices regional map

Sincerely yours,

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>