

May 12, 2009

Reference No.: SASC09034

The Honorable Governor Pat Quinn  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to you to ask your support for a very important issue for the Illinois bleeding disorder community. The budget you proposed for the 2010 Fiscal Year includes a reduction of roughly \$700,000 from the Illinois State Hemophilia Program. The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) would like to see the funding for the program restored.

PPTA is the association that represents human plasma collection centers and the manufacturers of plasma derived medicinal therapies, including albumin, alpha<sub>1</sub>-proteinase inhibitor, blood clotting factors, and immune globulin. Some of our members also use recombinant DNA technology to produce blood clotting factors. Collectively, these therapies – both plasma-derived and recombinant – are known as “plasma protein therapies.” As the leading voice of the plasma protein therapeutics industry, we are very familiar with the various issues facing the patients that require plasma protein therapies in the treatment of their rare, chronic, and debilitating diseases, disorders, and medical conditions.

The Hemophilia Treatment Program is a linchpin in the effective treatment and care for people with living with bleeding disorders in the state of Illinois. This program provides support to community members who have no other source available to them to provide life-saving medication and access to our medical specialists. PPTA understands the constraints of the current economic situation facing your state and the nation. It is for this reason that we are not suggesting an increase in funding for this program – but to maintain it at the FY 2009 level of \$13,374,700. According to the state administrators of the program, the program has funds available in the current fiscal year because of the delay in payments that the state has been experiencing this year. It is their expectation that all of the funds appropriated for 2009 will be expended.

It is important to note also that a decrease in funding for this program can ultimately lead to additional strain on other programs funded through the State. Without proper treatment, individuals with bleeding disorders will not be able to continue contributing to the employment and tax base, potentially leading to reliance on resources from Medicaid and Human Services programs and further strain the support system.

We urge you to help the Illinois bleeding disorder community during the FY 2010 budget deliberations by taking action to restore this line item to the FY 2009 level. Thank you again for your time, support and consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail me at [bspeir@pptaglobal.org](mailto:bspeir@pptaglobal.org).

Sincerely,

Bill Speir  
Assistant Director, State Affairs

Cc: Robert P. Robinson - Executive Director, Hemophilia Foundation of Illinois