

November 6, 2009
Reference No.: SASC09058

The Honorable Susan C. Fargo
The Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez
Chairs, Joint Committee on Public Health
State House- Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Letter of Support for HB 2098 “An Act relative to the Treatment of Hemophilia”

Dear Senator Fargo and Representative Sanchez:

The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) strongly supports the enactment of HB 2098, currently in the Joint Public Health Committee, which would prohibit the prior authorization of any anti-hemophilic factor drugs prescribed for the treatment of hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) represents the world’s leading manufacturers of plasma-derived therapies and their recombinant analogs, known collectively as plasma protein therapies. These therapies, include clotting factor therapies for individuals with hemophilia, are used by more than a million people worldwide to treat a variety of diseases and serious medical conditions. PPTA member companies provide more than 80% of the plasma protein therapies used in the United States today. PPTA member companies include Baxter BioScience, Biotest Pharmaceuticals, Cangene Corporation, CSL Behring, Grifols, Octapharma, and Talecris Biotherapeutics.

HB 2098 ensures that individuals with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders receive timely access to the care they need in Massachusetts. People with bleeding disorders have unique conditions that call for the application of specific healthcare regimens for effective treatment. The application of prior authorization requirements to clotting factor therapies could have dire consequences for the patients that rely on these life-saving therapies because treatment of these life-threatening diseases may be negatively impacted during the time that it takes the provider to obtain prior authorization. A delay as short as 24 hours may significantly impact the outcome of treatment.

I appreciate your attention to this important legislation. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please e-mail me at criddleberger@pptaglobal.org.

Best Regards,

Chip Riddleberger

Chip Riddleberger
Manager, State Affairs

CC:

Senator Mark Montigny
Senator Stephen Buoniconti
Senator Harriette Chandler
Senator Jennifer Flanagan
Senator Robert Hedlund

Representative Ruth Balsler
Representative Timothy Toomey, Jr.
Representative John Quinn
Representative Kevin Murphy
Representative Cleon Turner
Representative Kevin Aguiar
Representative Michael Brady
Representative Jason Lewis
Representative Lewis Evangelidis
Representative Donald Humason, Jr.

Kate Muir, New England Hemophilia Association