

September 7, 2007

Reference No.: SASCO7052

Senator Fargo  
Joint Committee on Public Health  
State House  
Room 504  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Koutoujian  
Joint Committee on Public Health  
State House  
Room 130  
Boston MA 02133

**RE: Letter of Support for H.2155 and H. 2071, Vital Legislation for the Bleeding Disorders Community in Massachusetts**

Dear Chairmen Fargo and Koutoujian:

On behalf of the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA), I am writing to ask for your continued support on H. 2155 and H. 2071. H. 2155 provides that anti-hemophilic factor therapies shall be exempt from prior authorization requirements. H. 2071 would allow for the revival of the Massachusetts Hemophilia Advisory Committee currently codified at Chapter 11, Sections 6, 6A, and 6B of the Massachusetts General Laws. H. 2155 would also modify the Advisory Committee structure so as to better address the needs of the bleeding disorders population in Massachusetts.

PPTA is the standard setting and global advocacy organization that represents plasma collection centers and manufacturers of plasma-derived and recombinant analog therapies for individuals with bleeding disorders, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and primary immune deficiencies. PPTA works in partnership with the consumer community to help ensure access to these life-saving therapies.

It is crucial as a matter of public policy that the beneficiaries receiving services from the Massachusetts medical assistance programs are not denied timely access to the treatments they need to keep them alive and functioning. Any attempt to apply prior authorization to blood clotting factor therapies could have dire consequences for the patients relying on these therapies. A patient experiencing a bleeding episode who is in need of a blood-clotting therapy cannot safely wait through the prior authorization review period to approve or deny his therapy. Delayed access to clotting factor can cause painful and crippling injury to a hemophiliac's joints and organs. Such complications often lead to increased health care costs for hospital, skilled nursing and other specialty services.

Enactment of a statutory prohibition on prior authorization for the drugs and therapies used to treat hemophilia is the only way to permanently ensure that patients in Massachusetts who rely on life-saving blood clotting factor therapies continue to have access to them without unnecessary delay. Similar exemptions from prior authorization

requirements have already been enacted in at least five other states (Minnesota, North Carolina, Nevada, South Carolina, and Texas).

In Massachusetts, there are approximately three hundred people with the aforementioned bleeding disorders. Approximately one hundred of those individuals are beneficiaries of the MassHealth program. The concern is that if MassHealth adopts more comprehensive prior authorization procedures for prescription drugs, blood clotting factor therapies will be included. H. 2155 will protect those people by stating that drugs for the treatment of bleeding disorders cannot be subjected to any prior authorization procedures.

H. 2071, which would reconstitute the Hemophilia Advisory Committee represents a proactive step in ensuring that people with bleeding disorders receive the care they need in Massachusetts. The specific concerns of this relatively small population are often overlooked in the context of changes to the broader health care system. The Hemophilia Advisory Committee would allow the various stakeholders in the bleeding disorders community to have a forum in which to voice their concerns to Massachusetts decision makers. There have been major advances in treatments for bleeding disorders over the past three decades. In order to help ensure further advancement, it is essential that the affected populations are able to have a voice in decisions that may impact the health care they receive. In short, we believe that the Hemophilia Advisory Committee is an important aspect of ensuring that patients with bleeding disorders in Massachusetts receive the highest quality of care possible.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 202-789-3100 or by email at [rfaden@pptaglobal.org](mailto:rfaden@pptaglobal.org).

Sincerely,



Ryan M. Faden, JD, MPH  
Assistant Director, State Affairs

CC: Glenn Mones, Vice President, Public Policy  
The National Hemophilia Association

Kate Muir, Board of Directors  
New England Hemophilia Association