## THOMAS L. MEHAFFIE, III, MEMBER

106TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

## **Capitol Office**

P.O. Box 202106 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2106 Phone: 717-787-2684 Fax: 717-787-7557

## **District Office**

1 East Chocolate Avenue, Suite 700 Hershey, PA 17033 Phone: 717-534-1323 Fax: 717-534-1457



## House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Harrisburg

March 12, 2025

Committees

Liquor Control
Subcommittee on Licensing – Republican Chair
Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities
Environmental & Natural Resource Protection
Gaming Oversight
Professional Licensure

Website: RepMehaffie.com Email: tmehaffie@pahousegop.com Facebook: facebook.com/RepMehaffie Instagram: /RepMehaffie

The Honorable James Struzzi, II Minority Chairman, House Appropriations Committee 245 Main Capitol Building P O Box 202062 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2062

The Honorable Jordan A. Harris
Majority Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
512E Main Capitol Building
P O Box 202186
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2186

The Honorable Jesse Topper Minority Leader 423 Main Capitol Building P O Box 202078 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2078

The Honorable Matthew D Bradford Majority Leader 110 Main Capitol Building P O Box 202070 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070

Dear Chairman Struzzi, Leader Topper, Chairman Harris, and Leader Bradford:

I am respectfully writing to you today seeking to have line item 322, currently at \$1.017M, increased to \$1.25M for the Hemophilia Program in the FY2025-2026 General Fund budget. The program is a separate line item under the PA Department of Health in the Governor's proposed budget for FY2025-2026, but remains level funded as it has for the past three final budgets. It is essential that this remains a separate line item in the budget as well as provides key language in the Fiscal Code to maintain the existing distribution of funding to all seven Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) throughout the Commonwealth. In excess of 3000 patients receive care throughout our state at the HTCs, all of which have been recognized by the Commonwealth as centers of excellence. One such center is located in the 106<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, which I represent, at the Penn State Health Milton S Hershey Medical Center (PSHMSHMC) in Dauphin County.

I support this line item and associated increase for the Hemophilia Program as funding goes directly to patient care, such as non-billable nursing and social work services, with a portion used for emergency purposes to help patients in financial hardship due to their bleeding disorder.

It is my understanding that PSHMSHMC's HTC is the only such center between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. They are a leader in both medical treatment and research and provide a medical base for people with inherited bleeding disorders; they offer complete care via an integral relationship between loved ones, patients, and their highly skilled care providers.

With continuing rising costs, without increased funding, care for individuals with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders will be adversely affected. Costs will rise for constituents from emergency and inappropriate care, and lost tax revenue from those unable to sustain gainful employment due to an inability to manage their disease properly. I support the efforts of the HTCs to help those in need; and their vital funding enables care for the afflicted and it saves lives.

Again, I am supportive of having this essential Hemophilia Program funding included and increased in the FY2025-2026 General Fund Budget for the health and well-being of our constituents.

Thank you in advance for your thorough review and support of this crucial funding request.

Sincerely,

Thomas L Mehaffie III State Representative 106<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

1224

TLM/tln

cc: The Honorable Joanna McClinton, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives