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**February 26, 2025**

The Honorable Jay Costa  
Senate Democratic Leader  
535 Main Capitol Building  
Senate Box 203043  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043

The Honorable Vincent J. Hughes  
Minority Appropriations Committee Chair  
545 Main Capitol Building  
Senate Box 203007  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007

### **Re: Pennsylvania State Support for Hemophilia Treatment Centers**

Dear Senators Costa and Hughes,

I write to express my strong support for the Eastern Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Foundation's request to increase funding for Pennsylvania's Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) in the FY 2025-26 budget. These centers provide lifesaving, specialized care to more than 3,000 patients across the Commonwealth living with hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and other inherited bleeding disorders.

HTCs are centers of excellence that offer comprehensive, multidisciplinary care, including services from hematologists, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, and genetic counselors. Many of these critical services—such as case management, mental health screenings, and patient assistance programs—are not billable to insurance but are essential to ensuring that individuals with bleeding disorders receive the care they need to live healthy, independent lives.

In addition to direct patient care, HTC funding also supports transportation assistance, emergency financial aid, behavioral health screenings, and the Unified Care Protocol (UCP)—a framework designed to break down barriers to care and improve health outcomes. Without this funding, many patients, particularly those with limited means, would struggle to access the medical attention they need, leading to an increase in emergency room visits and higher costs to the state through Medicaid.

I respectfully urge consideration of the following requests:

- **Increase state support from \$1,017,000 to \$1,250,000** to meet growing patient needs.
- **Maintain the hemophilia program as a separate line item** in the state budget to ensure dedicated funding.

- **Include fiscal code language to maintain the existing funding distribution** to all seven HTC.

Pennsylvania has long recognized the value and necessity of supporting HTCs. Without this investment, our Commonwealth will see a rise in preventable hospitalizations, increased costs to taxpayers, and a diminished quality of life for patients who rely on these services. Funding this program is not only a compassionate choice—it is a fiscally responsible one.

I appreciate your leadership and commitment to ensuring that Pennsylvania's bleeding disorders community continues to receive the care and support they need. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine M. Tartaglione". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Senator Christine M. Tartaglione**  
Pennsylvania Senate, District 2