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Democratic Whip



Senate of Pennsylvania

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April 10, 2026

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: FY 2026-27 Budget Request for Hemophilia Treatment Centers

Dear Leader Costa and Chairman Hughes,

I write in support of continued state funding for Pennsylvania's Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs), including St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, which serves patients and families in my district and across our region. These centers provide comprehensive, coordinated care for individuals living with hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and other inherited bleeding disorders through multidisciplinary teams of specialized medical professionals.

The Hemophilia Program line item plays a critical role in ensuring patients receive essential services that are often not otherwise reimbursable, including nursing care, social work services, care coordination, and assistance for individuals facing financial hardship related to their condition. Maintaining this funding as a separate line item and preserving the existing distribution structure ensures stability and continuity of care for the more than 3,000 Pennsylvanians who rely on HTCs for specialized treatment and support.

As we continue the FY 2026-27 budget process, please note my support for the Governor's budget proposal to fund the hemophilia line item. I also request to:

- **Maintain the hemophilia line item as a separate line item in the budget bill; and**
- **Include language in the fiscal code to maintain the existing funding distribution to the HTCs.**

Facilities like St. Christopher's Hospital for Children are vital to the health and well-being of families in North and Northeast Philadelphia and throughout the Commonwealth. The services supported by this funding help patients access necessary medications, attend medical appointments, address behavioral health needs, and navigate the complex challenges that often accompany chronic medical conditions. These coordinated services not only improve patient outcomes but also reduce long-term healthcare costs by preventing avoidable emergency care and helping individuals remain healthy and engaged in their communities.

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Pennsylvania's Hemophilia Treatment Centers are recognized centers of excellence that deliver high-quality, cost-effective care. Continued investment in this program ensures patients have access to the specialized resources they need while strengthening our healthcare system overall.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration during the FY 2026-27 budget process. I respectfully urge you to support maintaining the hemophilia line item as a separate line item in the budget bill and to include language in the fiscal code preserving the current funding distribution to all seven Hemophilia Treatment Centers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine M. Tartaglione".

Senator Christine M. Tartaglione
Pennsylvania Senate, District 2