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Dear Honorable Minister LaGrange,

Subject: Urgent Need for Enhanced Support for Bleeding Disorders in Alberta

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today to bring attention to a matter of utmost importance: the urgent need for enhanced support for individuals with bleeding disorders in Alberta. As the Health Minister, your leadership and advocacy are pivotal in ensuring that all residents of our province receive the comprehensive care and support they deserve.

Recently the CHS Alberta Chapter board of directors had the opportunity to review the Comprehensive Care Standards for Bleeding Disorders in Alberta, as outlined in the self-assessment report for the years 2022-2023. This document, prepared by the Canadian Hemophilia Society, sheds light on several critical areas where support for individuals with bleeding disorders falls short of the necessary standards.

Upon careful review of the self-assessment report, it is evident that there are significant gaps and deficiencies in the provision of care and support for individuals with bleeding disorders in Alberta. These shortcomings encompass various aspects, including but not limited to:

- Accessibility to specialized treatment centers and healthcare professional, especially for our aging population.
- Availability of essential medications, including clotting factors and other necessary treatments.
- Education and awareness initiatives to empower patients and their families with the necessary knowledge and resources.
- Coordination and integration of care services to ensure holistic and patient-centered approaches.

These deficiencies not only compromise the health and well-being of individuals with bleeding disorders but also impose substantial emotional and financial burdens on them and their families. The clinics report that they are growing in numbers, but that no additional space or staffing is being given to accommodate the increases. According to your mandate letter from Danielle Smith, addressing health care staffing challenges is an important initiative for the Province.

Additionally we believe that patients would be better served accessing bleeding disorder clinics for their emergency care needs, instead of being diverted to emergency rooms, which increases wait times.

It is imperative that we address these challenges promptly and comprehensively to uphold the statement on the Alberta Government website to “focus Alberta’s health care system on providing consistent, timely access to care – when and where you need it.”

Therefore, I urge you, as the Health Minister, to take decisive action to enhance support for individuals with bleeding disorders in Alberta.

This may include:

- Allocating additional funding to improve access to specialized treatment centers and essential medications.
- Implementing education and awareness campaigns to promote understanding and empathy towards individuals with bleeding disorders.
- Collaborating with healthcare providers, patient advocacy groups, and other stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive care strategies.

By prioritizing the needs of individuals with bleeding disorders, we can demonstrate our commitment to a healthcare system that is equitable, compassionate, and responsive to the needs of all residents. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by bleeding disorders and ensure that they receive the support and care they rightfully deserve.

Call to Action:

We ask that you provide to the HTC in Alberta – particularly the HTC at FMC receive a dedicated area to provide urgent care and treatment to our patients.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that with your leadership and support, we can work towards a brighter and more inclusive future for individuals with bleeding disorders in Alberta.

Sincerely,

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<http://www.hemophilia.ca/en/provincial-chapters/alberta/>

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