



Committee of Ten Thousand

Advocates for Persons with HCV-HIV/AIDS

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April 8, 2009

Rep. Kelli Linville, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington State Legislature
Olympia, WA
via email: Linville.kelli@leg.wa.gov

Dear Chairman Linville:

The Committee of Ten Thousand, an organization of people with hemophilia, strongly opposes the state proposal to reduce costs by limiting access to hemophilia medications to a single provider, the Puget Sound Blood Center.

We have seen several states seek this route, and have informed them of the dangers in this plan. Persons with hemophilia require access to all currently licensed brands of hemophilia factor concentrates, as for users of any one of them, the user's condition may modify without warning and a rapid move to one of the other formulas is the only way to avoid significant breakdown in their treatment. A key way to avoid providers beginning to reduce access to this full complement of factor concentrates has historically been the ability of persons with hemophilia to choose among providers.

Should this latter freedom be removed, so is the priority for the provider to furnish the full complement of medications. When that happens the risk to the end user increases should one of these rapid changes (called 'inhibitors') occur. In short, it violates the standard of care for this disorder to provide less than the full range of available factor concentrates. It threatens the family's ability to have a say in retaining full access to the medication it needs, so that an appropriate medical selection is always available.

Thank you for your consideration. We would be happy to answer any questions or discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dave Cavanaugh
Government Relations
Committee of Ten Thousand