

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 2, 2014

Dear Senator Harkin:

The undersigned organizations represent millions of Americans living with a blood disorder and the professionals that care for them. As the Committee crafts its legislation to provide funding for the remainder of FY 2014, we ask that funding be maintained at the FY 2013 levels for the Division of Blood Disorders within the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Division of Blood Disorders conducts research and surveillance that provides life-saving strategies for individuals with blood disorders, including those with Hemophilia, Venous Thromboembolisms and Pulmonary Embolisms (VTE-PE), Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Disease, and Diamond-Blackfan Anemia.

More than 4 million people in the United States are affected by blood disorders, including 1.75 million women. By maintaining and enhancing the activities of the NCBDDD programs, much can be done to: (1) reduce these numbers; (2) contain growing public health impacts through prevention; and (3) achieve cost saving. Current funding levels allow the CDC to monitor, evaluate, and develop effective strategies to treat blood disorders nationwide.

The Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill for FY 2014 and accompanying Committee Report included a proposal to reduce funding for blood disorders by nearly \$6 million. This proposed cut, which would account for nearly one-third of the Division's funding, would severely impact vital programs that provide needed blood disorder surveillance, epidemiological and laboratory research, prevention strategies, and awareness among the public and health professionals. It has become widely recognized that blood disorders (BD) are a serious public health problem and that we are failing to adequately address them. We strongly urge that funding be maintained for the Blood Disorders Division at the FY 2013 levels.

Should you have any questions related to our request or our concerns with the Senate Report language, please contact Katie Verb with the Hemophilia Federation of America at (202) 675-6984.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Society of Hematology
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Hemophilia Federation of America
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Hemophilia Foundation
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America