Dear Senator/Representative [insert last name]:

I am writing to you as a constituent and [hematologist, patient, etc,] to urge your support for The Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Centers Act of 2022 (H.R. 8855/S. 4866). The bill would address the unmet needs of patients with SCD, sickle cell trait, and other heritable hemoglobinopathies through the establishment of and funding for a nationwide system of treatment centers and support for provider and patient training and education resources.

Approximately 100,000 Americans are currently living with SCD an inherited blood disorder that causes pain, infection, and stroke. The disease disproportionately affects Black Americans but is found among people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds, occurring in approximately one in every 365 Black or African American births and one out of every 16,300 Hispanic American births.

Despite the need for consistent and coordinated treatment, few patients with SCD have access to multidisciplinary care teams. Many health care providers lack the knowledge and resources to address patients’ unique health challenges over the course of their life. In addition, many Americans who may have sickle cell trait do not know they have it or do not have access to counseling, and, as a result, may not receive the care they need to respond to these potential complications. Yet, funding for education and treatment for SCD and sickle cell trait is extremely limited compared to that for other disabling chronic diseases.

The Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Centers Act of 2022 establishes a nationwide network of more than 120 Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Centers based on a hub-and-spoke framework and provides support for 100 community-based organizations, creates a National Coordinating Centerto coordinate the National Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Center Program, and authorizes appropriations of $535,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter.

I urge you to co-sponsor the Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Centers Act of 2022 (H.R. 8855/S. 4866), which will make a significant and meaningful impact to improve the lives of patients with SCD, sickle cell trait, and other heritable hemoglobinopathies. If you have any questions about the legislation, please contact Erika Ninoyu (Congresswoman Barbara Lee’s office) at Erika.Ninoyu@mail.house.gov or Shayla Britton (Senator Chris Van Hollen’s office) at Shayla\_Britton@vanhollen.senate.gov

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,