July 5, 2016

The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Re: An Act Relative to HIV-Associated Lipodystrophy Treatment

Dear Speaker DeLeo:

We are 104 Massachusetts physicians who write to urge passage of An Act Relative to HIV-Associated Lipodystrophy Treatment.

Lipodystrophy is a medical condition that requires treatment in order to alleviate profound suffering. Today it affects a small number of our longest term survivors of the HIV epidemic who are generally in their 50s and 60s. They have been denied coverage by insurers for the simple and inexpensive treatments that will repair the disfiguring and debilitating effects of this disease.

As you know, lipodystrophy is a side effect of the first wave of the HIV medications in the late 1990s that transformed HIV from an almost always fatal condition to one that people can now live with over the course of a normal lifespan. These medications saved countless lives, but had unintended, but serious consequence. Those who experience lipodystrophy have abnormal body shape changes that cause a range of harms, including spinal malformation and postural problems, headaches, restricted mobility, neck pain, inability to sleep, depression/anxiety, suicidality, and stigma and discrimination due to the public disclosure of HIV status resulting from some of lipodystrophy’s manifestations.

As physicians, we work hard every day to treat patients and eliminate unnecessary suffering. We are distressed that the refusal of insurers to cover lipodystrophy treatment prevents us from obtaining the best health care available for patients with HIV. Treatment of lipodystrophy is basic medical care; it is not cosmetic. It is also sound health policy. It is costlier to address the harm of untreated lipodystrophy (e.g., pain medications, physical therapy, psychotherapy) than it is to treat the underlying disease.

We are proud that Massachusetts has always been and continues to be a national leader in healthcare for people living with HIV. The challenge of untreated lipodystrophy is an omission that needs to be corrected. We hope that you will bring An Act Relative to HIV-Associated Lipodystrophy Treatment to a vote so that people with HIV in Massachusetts can receive the medical treatment that they need.
Sincerely,

Camilla Graham, MD, MPH
Division of Infectious Disease, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
110 Francis Street, LMOB Suite GB
Boston, MA 02215

John Mazzullo, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine
Tufts Medical Center
800 Washington St
Boston, MA 02111

Stephen Boswell, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Fenway Health
1340 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215

Margaret Koziel, MD
Professor of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Ave N
Worcester, MA 02492

Stephen Martin, MD
Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of
Massachusetts Medical School
Barre Family Health Center
151 Worcester Road
Barre, Massachusetts 01005

Paul Sax, MD
Clinical Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02446
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Kenneth Mayer, MD
Co-Chair and Medical Research Director, Fenway Health
1340 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02118

Steven Grinspoon, MD
Professor of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School
5 Longfellow Place, Room 207
Boston, MA 02493
Ellen Cooper, MD
International AIDS Society
Pediatric Infectious Disease Society
Infectious Disease Society of America
American Academy of Pediatrics
Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine
670 Albany Street
Boston, MA 02118

Hannah Olivet, MD
Principal Investigator of HIV Studies, Community Research Initiative
38 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02138
Staff Physician, Cambridge Hospital

George Abraham, MD
Professor of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Saint Vincent Hospital
123 Summer Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Governor, American College of Physicians, Massachusetts Chapter

Rebecca Glassman, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Ave
Boston, MA 02215

Wendy Stead, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Fellowship Program Director, Infectious Diseases Division
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
110 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02215

Douglas Krakower, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
110 Francis St WLMOB Suite GB
Boston, MA 02215
Harvard Medical School

Rajesh Gandhi, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
55 Fruit St, GRJ 504
Boston, MA 02114
James Levenson, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Ave
Boston, MA 02130
Harvard Medical School

Laura Kogelman, MD
Associate Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine
Tufts Medical Center
800 Washington St, Box #7010
Boston, MA 02111

Jose Caro, MD
Tufts Medical Center
800 Washington Street, Box 238
Boston, MA 02111

Jerome Klein, MD
Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine
Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Boston Medical Center
Boston Medical Center
774 Albany St
Boston, MA 02118

Tine Vindenes, MD
800 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Alison Rapoport, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
110 Francis St
Boston, MA 02215

Sherwood Gorbach, MD
136 Harrison Ave
Boston, MA 02111

Anne Bassler, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Ave
Boston, MA 02215

Liz O'Dair, MD
Holyoke Health
230 Maple Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
David Rosmarin, MD
Tufts Medical Center Department of Dermatology
800 Washington Street
P.O. Box 114
Boston, MA 02111

Rachel Haft, MD
Longfellow Primary Care PC
625 Mt. Auburn Street, Suite 101A
Cambridge, MA 02138

Alejandro Esparza, MD
Holyoke Health Center
230 Maple Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Donald Maier, MD
9 Penryn Way
Rockport, MA 01966

Jane Cross, MD
74 Massasoit St
Northampton, MA 01060

T. Stephen Jones, MD
Retired from the U.S. Public Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Black Birch Trail
Florence, MA 01062

David Feinbloom, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

Maura Fagan, MD
Medical Director, Center for Infectious Diseases, Boston Medical Center
1 Boston Medical Center
Dowling 3 North
Boston, MA 02118

Jonathan Adler, MD
Winchester Hospital
1021 Main Street
7 Wainwright Road Unit 28
Winchester, MA 01890
Sanjay Ram, MD  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
Worcester, MA 01605

Rachel Epstein, MD  
Adult and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Boston Medical Center  
670 Albany St., 6th Floor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases  
Boston, MA 02118

Daniel McQuillen, MD  
Senior Staff Physician, Center for Infectious Diseases and Prevention  
Assistant Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine  
Lahey Hospital & Medical Center  
41 Mall Road  
Burlington, MA 01805

Pratibha Seshadri, MD  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Suite GB LMOB  
110 Francis Street  
Boston, MA 02215

Amy Colson, MD  
Cambridge Health Alliance  
1493 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Jean Talbert, MD  
Falmouth Hospital  
100 Ter Heun Dr.  
Falmouth, MA 02540

Brian Bakofen, DO  
Lead Physician, Fenway Health  
1340 Boylston St  
Boston, MA 02215  
Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Erica Dommasch, MD  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Department of Dermatology  
330 Brookline Ave.  
Shapiro 2  
Boston, MA 02215  
Instructor, Harvard Medical School  
Fenway Health
Stephen Zinner, MD  
Mount Auburn Hospital  
330 Mount Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Harvard Medical School  

Vishakha Sabharwal, MD  
Boston Medical Center  
670 Albany St 6th Floor  
Boston, MA 02445  

Philip Bolduc, MD  
University of Massachusetts  
Family Health Center of Worcester  
26 Queen St.  
Worcester, MA 01610  

Joseph Baker, MD  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Fenway Health  
1340 Boylston St  
Boston, MA 02215  

Richard Serrao, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine  
Lecturer on Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
VA Boston Healthcare System  
1400 VFW Parkway  
West Roxbury, MA 02132  

Gila Kriegel, MD  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
330 Brookline Ave  
Boston, MA 02215  

AJ Eckert, DO  
Whittier Street Health Center  
1290 Tremont St  
Roxbury, MA 02120  
Boston Medical Center  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  

Kelly Flett, MD, MMSc  
Assistant in Medicine
Mahmooda Qureshi, MD  
Bulfinch Medical Group  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
15 Fruit Street  
Boston, MA 02114

Mireya Wessolosky, MD  
UMass Memorial Health Center  
55 Lake Ave North  
Worcester, MA 01655

Zachary Spigelman, MD  
Metrowest Medical Center  
99 Lincoln Street  
Framingham, MA 01701  
Lecturer, Tufts Medical Center  
800 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111

Greer Clarke, MD  
Redwood Pediatrics  
15 Vreeland Avenue  
E. Longmeadow, MA 01028

Thea Brennan-Krohn, MD  
Clinical Fellow, Infectious Diseases, Boston Children's Hospital  
300 Longwood Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115  
Microbiology Fellow, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Julia Koehler, MD  
Boston Children's Hospital  
300 Longwood Ave  
Boston, MA 02130

Harvey Makadon, MD  
Fenway Health  
1340 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02215  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Harvard Medical School

Kevin Amaral, MD  
Tufts Medical Center  
29 Taylor Street Apt 1  
Winthrop, MA 02152
Kenneth McIntosh, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Founder and First Medical Director, Children's Hospital AIDS Program
Division of Infectious Diseases
Boston Children's Hospital
300 Longwood Ave.
Boston, MA 02115

Medical Director, Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
Boston Children's Hospital
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Lori Panther, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
110 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02215

Michael Wong, MD
Division of Infectious Diseases, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Ave
Boston, MA 02215
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Nira Pollock, MD, PhD
Boston Children’s Hospital
Associate Medical Director, Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory
300 Longwood Ave.
Boston, MA 02115

Rafael Fernandez Bohorquez, MD
East Boston Neighborhood Medical Center, Boston Medical Center
10 Gove St
Boston, MA 02128

Robert Kitts, MD
Assistant Professor, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Mark Schuster, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Jae Yong Lee, MD  
133 Brookline Avenue  
Boston, MA 02215

Barbara Herbert, MD  
Commonwealth Care Alliance  
30 Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Amanda Cooke, MD  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
185 Pilgrim Road  
Boston, MA 02446

Brian Bakofen, DO  
Lead Physician, Fenway Health  
1340 Boylston St  
Boston, MA 02215  
Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Erica Dommasch, MD  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Department of Dermatology  
330 Brookline Ave.  
Shapiro 2  
Boston, MA 02215  
Instructor, Harvard Medical School  
Fenway Health

Karin Netland, MD, MPH  
96 Gardner Road  
Brookline, MA 02445

Stephanie Prior, MD  
Community Health Center of Cape Cod  
107 Commercial St  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
Lou Ann Bruno-Murtha, MD  
Division Chief, Infectious Disease, Cambridge Health Alliance  
1493 Cambridge St., Macht 429  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Rinn Song, MD  
Harvard Medical School  
300 Longwood Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115
Jason Lambrese, MD
Boston Children’s Hospital
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Harvey Bidwell, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Bowdoin Street Health Center
230 Bowdoin Street
Dorchester, MA 02131

William Swiggard, MD
Infectious Diseases, Cooley Dickinson Medical Group
22 Atwood Drive, Suite 203
Northampton, MA 01060
Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Holyoke Health Center

Ronald Lacro, MD
Associate in Cardiology, Boston Children’s Hospital
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

Hirschel McGinnis, MD
111 Warren Ave.
Boston, MA 02116

Jonathan Pincus, MD
Codman Square Health Center
637 Washington Street
Dorchester, MA 02186

Mark Thall, MD
Beth Israel Medical Center Instructor in Psychiatry
330 Brookline Avenue KS254
Boston, MA 02215

Jennifer Potter, MD
Physician, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
Physician, Fenway Health Center
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Adam Levine, MD
210 South Street 2-5
Boston, MA 02111
Aditya Chandrasekhar, MD, MPH
Fenway Health
1340 Boylston St
Boston, MA 02215
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Harvard Medical School

Leonard Alberts, MD
Lecturer, College of Nursing and Health Science, UMass/Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
President, New England Association on HIV over Fifty

Miranda Balkin, MD
Fenway Health
1340 Boylston St
Boston, MA 02215

Steven Zivich, MD
Fenway Health
1340 Boyslton St
Boston, MA 02215

Lisa Weissmann, MD
Chief Medical Oncology, Mount Auburn Hospital
330 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Brian Quint, MD
Military Psychiatrist
427 Commercial Street
HSWL RP
Boston, MA 02109

Samuel Pang, MD
IVF New England
One Forbes Road
Lexington, MA 02421

Suriya Jeyapalan, MD, MPH
Tufts Medical Center
800 Washington St, #245
Boston, MA 02111
Ami Multani, MD
Fenway Health
1340 Boylston St
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Robin Wigmore, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Ave
Boston, MA 02215

Helen Boucher, MD
Tufts Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine
800 Washington Street, Box 238
Boston, MA 02111
Treasurer, Infectious Diseases Society of America
Member, HIV Medicine Association

John Doweiko, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Avenue
Healthcare Associates -- Central
Boston, MA 02215

Alex Gonzalez, MD, MPH
Fenway Health Center
1340 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Harvard Medical School

Davie Mello, DO
1340 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215

Ralph Vettes, MD
Medical Director, Sidney Borum Jr. Health Center
75 Kneeland St. Suite 201
Boston, MA 02111

David Fefferman, MD
3 Woodland Road #306
Stoneham, MA 02180
Paul Lynch, MD
332 Shawmut Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
Faculty, Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis
Tufts Medical Center

Mark Eisenberg, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital Charlestown Health Care Center
73 High Street
Charlestown, MA 02129
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Myron Falchuk, MD
110 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02465

Gregory Robbins, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
55 Fruit Street
Boston, MA 02114
Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School

Kit Mui, MD
Steward Carney Hospital
2100 Dorchester Avenue
Boston, MA 02124

Christopher Bositis, MD
Clinical Program Director, HIV and Viral Hepatitis
Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
34 Haverhill Street
Lawrence, MA 01841 United States
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine

Richard Marshall, MD
Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates
165 Dartmouth Street
Boston, MA 02116
Assistant Clinical Professor of Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School

cc. Representative Sarah Peake