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CONTACT: Dominick Spatafora
(877) 512-7262
info@neuropathyaction.org

Neuropathy Action Foundation Releases White Paper Urging for Action to Improve Access to Lifesaving Plasma-Derived Medicines

SANTA ANA, CA – Today, the Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF) released, "Improving Access to Plasma-Derived Therapies for Neuropathy," a new white paper identifying outdated state regulations, plasma supply challenges, and insurance restrictions that can stand between patients and the treatments they need. Developed in partnership with M2 Health Care Consulting, the paper calls for practical policy changes to strengthen the nation's plasma ecosystem, reduce unnecessary barriers to source plasma collection, and improve patient access to plasma-derived medicines.

"More than 20 million Americans live with some form of neuropathy, and for many individuals with immune-mediated neuropathies such as chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), and multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN), plasma-derived medicines can be a first-line treatment," said Brenda Gleason, President of M2 Health Care Consulting. "The United States supplies more than 70 percent of the world's plasma, but vulnerabilities throughout the supply chain create challenges in maintaining a consistent supply. We need to look at the entire plasma ecosystem and develop policies that support a safe, reliable plasma supply, while ensuring patients can access the treatments they need."

The white paper highlights the complexity of the plasma supply system, from healthy human donors to the manufacturing of finished medicines, a process that can take up to a year. It also highlights recent legislative victories, including California's Assembly Bill 2009 and Connecticut's Senate Bill 368 which modernize state regulations for source-plasma collection, while preserving donor safety and product quality.

A reliable plasma ecosystem is only part of the solution. Patients also face insurance denials, restrictive medical necessity criteria, repeated prior authorization requirements to try other treatments before receiving prescribed therapy.

"When I was denied access to IVIg by my insurer, I felt the fear, frustration, and uncertainty that patients too often face when a treatment they depend on is suddenly out of reach," said Dominick Spatafora, Founder and President, Neuropathy Action Foundation, and individual living with multifocal motor neuropathy. "This white paper reinforces something I have believed from the beginning: improving access means looking at the entire system, from the people who donate plasma to the policies that govern the supply of these medicines and the insurance decisions that determine whether patients can receive them. Every part of that system must work toward one goal: ensuring patients have access to the individualized treatments they need to live full, independent lives," Spatafora concluded.

To access full white paper, please visit www.neuropathyaction.org or click here.

About the Neuropathy Action Foundation

The Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is dedicated to ensuring neuropathy patients obtain the necessary resources, information, and tools to access individualized treatment to improve their quality of life. The NAF increases awareness among providers, the general public, and public policy officials that neuropathy can potentially be a serious, widespread, and disabling condition, which may be treatable when appropriate care is provided. For more information visit: www.neuropathyaction.org.