

Date

Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins, MPP (St. Paul's)
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block,
80 Grosvenor Street,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Dear Minister,

I am writing to draw your attention to the plight of a small group of genetically disadvantaged Ontarians.

If you have a rare life-threatening disease called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, don't work for the Ontario Government and you don't have private insurance your government seems content to see you waste away struggling for every breath until you join other Ontarians on the lung transplant list. If, on the other hand you work for the Government of Ontario your expensive lifesaving treatment is paid for by the taxpayers.

The Ontario Liberal Governments platform states that, "Providing high-quality health care on the basis of need, rather than the ability to pay, is a defining characteristic of Canada and a core principle of the Ontario Liberal Party. It is the most important thing a government can do to provide people with security."

In the case of people suffering from Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency your government is failing miserably on this commitment.

After covering the treatment for 18 years, in a cost cutting measure, the Ontario Drug Benefit Program ceased approving funding of alpha-1 antitrypsin augmentation therapy for newly prescribed patients over five years ago. This therapy is the only treatment available for lung-involved patients with a rare genetic disease called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. But they continued providing it to for people in the broader public sector.

But your government, always careful to look after its own, chose to only stop funding this lifesaving treatment for the rest of us, not for themselves. Please reverse this unfair and elitist decision.

Sincerely,

cc. Alpha-1 Canada, 1638 Northway Ave., Windsor, ON N9B 3L9