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To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Written Statement In Support of DoN Application #BCH-23082514-HE
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Good Morning,

My name is Andy Cancellieri. I live in Scituate, MA. My 9 year old son was treated this past summer at Franciscan Children's Community Based Acute Treatment unit (known as "CBAT").

I am writing today as I was not able to stay on the call to speak last evening. I want to convey our family's support for the Determination of Need Application for a "Substantial Capital Expenditure" at Franciscan Children's. Our family knows firsthand the life-changing work that is done by Franciscan Children's for kids facing mental and behavioral health challenges.

I don't think anyone would dispute the fact that we have a mental health crisis in this country, particularly with children.

My son's story is just one example. I can confidently say that the care that he received at Franciscan's saved his life.

Before CBAT, even though he was under the regular care of a psychiatrist and psychologist, the symptoms related to his ADHD and anxiety conditions were overwhelming for our entire family.

We reached a breaking point this past summer when he needed to be hospitalized for emergency care. It was then obvious to us that the level of care that our son required was not adequately addressed by his existing outpatient appointments with his therapist and psychiatrist.

Shortly after my son's emergency hospitalization, he was extraordinarily lucky to be admitted into Franciscan's CBAT unit. Lucky because there happened to be a bed available and that he fit the mix of kids that were currently there. Most families aren't so lucky.

At CBAT, he was under constant, intensive supervision where his behaviors and struggles could be observed first-hand by the staff, and then accurately diagnosed and treated. This was far more effective than my wife and I trying to describe his symptoms at less frequent appointments with his existing providers.

During his 4 week stay, CBAT staff were able to get him on a stabilized medication regimen and help him through therapy. They taught him valuable coping and regulating skills.

While he still struggles at times, the skill set that he began building at CBAT is the basis for life skills that will serve him for years to come.

It is time that we start doing more to solve our mental health crisis, particularly for children

with complex challenges that can't be treated with lower-level services in our health system. Franciscan's is trying meet this need with their proposed project.

They will build a new state-of-the-art facility that will include more inpatient psychiatric beds so that children will not have to wait for treatment.

The plan will also enhance outpatient services including community-based programs which are important for families once you take your child home.

Franciscan's plan to modernize its campus shows its commitment to the health and well-being of children throughout Massachusetts. This plan will enable more children to access the critical programs and services that Franciscan's provides – services that have had a great impact on my child and my family.

I strongly support Franciscan Children's and their project. I know it will benefit many families like mine.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to write in support of Franciscan Children's.

Andy Cancellieri

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