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ABC MISSION:

To promote the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease including stroke, in Blacks and other minorities and to achieve health equity for all through the elimination of disparities.

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blunt Rochester:

The Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) offers its endorsement of the *Charles Rochester Blood Clot Prevention and Treatment Act* (H.R. 5699) and appreciates your leading efforts to raise awareness of deep venous thromboembolism (DVT), as well as approaches to improved screening, detection, and diagnosis of DVT and pulmonary embolism (PE). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one person in the United States dies every six minutes from a blood clot. Yet, blood clots can be safely treated when the signs and symptoms are recognized.

The mission of ABC is to promote the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, including stroke, in Blacks and other minorities and to achieve health equity for all through elimination of disparities. Fundamental to our values is that health care should be accessible to all regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender.

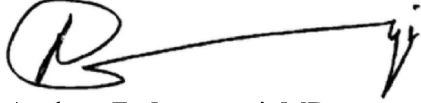
The CDC has a number of [resources](#) available to the general public, as well as for health care providers including a [free online continuing medical education course](#) offered in collaboration with The National Blood Clot Alliance as part of the [Stop the Clot, Spread the Word](#) campaign. The ABC is committed to making sure that its members and volunteers are aware of these valuable resources.

We believe there is still work to be done to prevent DVT and PE, including among patients undergoing cardiac surgery and for whom VTE and PE are serious post-operative risks. According to a [study](#) published in the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* in 2020, DVT and PE prophylaxis is not uniformly practiced among cardiac surgical patients, and additional study is need to identify more optimized strategies for VTE prevention.

We hope Congress will continue to provide the CDC the funding resources it needs to continue and grow its public and provider education and outreach activities and will make available federal resources to fund research into prevention and treatment of VTE and PE, as well as the development and dissemination of practice guidelines so that all patients receive appropriate standard of care.

The ABC offers itself as a resource on this and other issues. Should you have questions, please contact Camille Bonta, ABC policy advisor, at (202) 320-3658 or cbonta@summithealthconsulting.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by 'E. Onwuanyi'.

Anekwe E. Onwuanyi, MD
President
Association of Black Cardiologists