



November 27, 2017

Dear Senator,

The undersigned organizations of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP), a national coalition of local, regional, and national organizations advocating for federal HIV/AIDS legislation and policy, encourage you to oppose any tax bill that would decrease revenue or result in spending cuts to safety net programs (including entitlement programs, like Medicaid). Currently, the proposed tax plan would likely result in huge increases to the deficit that could result in deep cuts to safety net programs vital to people living with and disproportionately impacted by HIV.

Three decades into the HIV epidemic, the disease continues to pose a substantial threat to the health and well-being of Americans with roughly 1.2 million people living with HIV in the United States, and about 40,000 infections diagnosed annually. Trends in HIV diagnoses over the past decade show promising signs of progress. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from 2005-2014 the number of HIV diagnoses declined by 19 percent. However, now is not the time to disinvest in HIV and safety net programs, including the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and the Medicaid program. HIV is embedded in social and economic inequity, as it affects those of lower socioeconomic status at a disproportionately high rate. Research from the CDC shows that individuals who cannot meet their basic living needs may end up in circumstances that increase the likelihood of contracting HIV and developing AIDS.

We are specifically concerned about repealing the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate. Based on the current Senate plan, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 13 million more people will be without health coverage if the mandate is repealed. Any reforms Congress makes to our health care system should be focused upon expanding access to quality, affordable health coverage for all Americans. We are also concerned that a decrease in federal revenue could lead to significant program cuts. Any cuts to safety net programs will affect people living with HIV resulting in lack of services or access to funds. People living with HIV will have serious and long-term negative health consequences due to disruptions in their treatment and care. Such disruptions pose serious public health risks, including potential HIV outbreaks if people with HIV are unable to access the treatment and services necessary to maintain an undetectable viral load. With continuous access to health care, including HIV medications, people living with HIV can stay healthy and control the virus – effectively eliminating their risk of transmitting HIV. We strongly urge Congress not to use tax reform as a vehicle for cutting services or funding for Planned Parenthood or other community-based programs that provide a

continuum of critical preventive and reproductive health services to 2.4 million people every year.

Tax cuts must not come at the expense of vital healthcare programs. The number of uninsured Americans should not rise as a result of tax cuts and individuals who rely on safety-net programs like the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and other health care and social services should not lose access to the services they depend on to support tax cuts.

Inevitably, any decreases in revenue could lead to programmatic funding cuts that will have a detrimental impact on people living with HIV and those communities who are disproportionately impacted by HIV. As a nation, we have a shared responsibility to confront the root causes of these health disparities. Decreases in revenue will not move us closer to this goal.

If you have any questions, please contact the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership Co-Chairs - Ann Lefert, NASTAD(alefert@NASTAD.org); Kathie Hiers, AIDS Alabama (kathie@aidسالabama.org); and Moses Agosto, NMAC (magosto@nmac.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AAHIVM
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The AIDS Institute
AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine
APLA Health
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Bailey House, Inc.
CAEAR Coalition
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Clare Housing
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
DC Fights Back!!
God's Love We Deliver
HealthHIV
HIVMA (HIV Medicine Association)
Howard Brown Health
Human Rights Campaign
Lambda Legal
Minnesota AIDS Project
National Association of City and County Health Officials

NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors)
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council of Jewish Women
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
NMAC
Open Door Clinic of Greater Elgin
Positive Women's Network - USA
Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN), PHEWA, PCUSA
Prevention Access Campaign
Project Inform
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Sinai Health Systems
Southern AIDS Coalition
TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network)
Treatment Access Expansion Project (TAEP)
Treatment Action Group
UCHAPS
VillageCare