

AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition

(An affiliated workgroup of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership)

September 15, 2015

Subject: AIDS Community Concerns with FY2016 Congressional Appropriation Bills

Dear Members of Congress:

We, the undersigned 159 organizations, would like to share with you our serious concerns with several aspects of the House and Senate FY2016 appropriations bills as they relate to domestic HIV/AIDS funding. While we are very appreciative of the work of the House and Senate Appropriation Committees and the many positive elements in these bills, there are several programs that have been proposed to be eliminated or dramatically cut that will directly impact domestic HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs. (See ABAC funding [chart](http://bit.ly/1HxvGEN) at <http://bit.ly/1HxvGEN> for a complete listing of funding levels for specific programs).

We commend the Congress for maintaining funding for most parts of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program; CDC's Division of HIV Prevention, the Division of Adolescent and School Health, and Division of Viral Hepatitis; HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS; substantial increases in funding to the National Institutes of Health; and modified language regarding syringe exchange programs.

However, the budget cuts proposed are unacceptable and must be restored. Therefore, we call on the Congress and the President to come to the table to develop an overarching budget deal that eliminates sequestration and increases the budget caps to levels high enough to adequately fund necessary healthcare and other critical investments to ensure the future growth of our nation.

With increased budget levels, we would ask that funding for the following programs be restored in the Labor-HHS Appropriation bills (H.R. 3020; S.1695):

- **HHS Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund (SMAIF).** The Senate bill completely eliminates all \$52 million for this initiative for racial and minority communities who are most affected by HIV/AIDS. SMAIF programs provide funding to federal agencies to form collaborative efforts that develop innovative best practices and strategies to improve health outcomes for those most impacted by HIV. These programs enhance, rather than replace, other federal recourses. A complete loss in funding would result in the elimination of AIDS.gov, and cutting edge programs aimed at racial minorities, including the MSM of Color initiative and Partnerships 4 Care that improves HIV testing and treatment at community health centers. HIV funding for the Indian Health Service,

Regional Health Administrators, the Office of Population Affairs, the Office of Minority Health, and the Office of Women's Health would also be cut.

- **SAMHSA Minority AIDS Initiative.** The Senate bill has proposed cutting SAMHSA's HIV/AIDS program by \$9 million. The program enhances and expands effective, culturally-competent HIV/AIDS-related behavioral services in minority communities for people who need behavioral health services.
- **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS)** program is completely eliminated under the Senate bill. The \$25 million program develops innovative service models for HIV care to respond to the needs of Ryan White Program clients, especially those clients representing the most vulnerable populations including women of color, transgender individuals, incarcerated persons, homeless people with multiply diagnosed co-morbidity, Latinos, MSM, and individuals co-infected with HIV and hepatitis C. Current funding supports programs to increase HIV care in community health centers, health information technology to improve the HIV care continuum, culturally appropriate interventions to reach Latinos, building medical homes for HIV positive homeless populations, and enhancing care for transgender women of color.
- **CDC Division of STD Prevention** was cut by \$32 million in the Senate bill. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are on the rise in the U.S. and can increase susceptibility to HIV infection. This is the only federal agency providing funding for STD prevention in all 50 states and nine cities/territories.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP)** was essentially eliminated in both the House and Senate bills. The program's rigorous evaluation and training and technical assistance to communities provides young people access to age-appropriate and medically-accurate information to prevent unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs.
- **Title X Family Planning:** The House has proposed to completely eliminate the Title X program, while the Senate has proposed to cut the program by nearly \$29 million. Title X is the nation's only dedicated source of family planning funding, and offers HIV/AIDS prevention education and testing in addition to screening and treatment for other STDs.
- **Affordable Care Act (ACA):** Both the House and Senate bills eliminate funding to carry out the implementation of parts of the ACA. The ACA has been successful in extending health care coverage to millions, including people living with HIV.
- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** was eliminated in the House bill and cut by \$127 million in the Senate bill. AHRQ is a trusted source of data and analysis about our nation's health care system and it sponsors the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the HIV Research Network.

Again, we thank you for your continued leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS and your support of these critical federal programs. We urge Congress to raise the restrictive budget caps in order to ensure these programs receive continued adequate funding. We look forward to working with you and the entire Congress as you address the FY2016 appropriations bills.

Sincerely,

30 for 30 Campaign
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

ActionAIDS
ADAP Educational Initiative

Advocates for Youth
Affirmations Lesbian Gay Community
Center
AID Upstate
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Action Coalition
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants,
Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Care
AIDS Community Research Initiative of
America
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
AIDS Housing Association of Tacoma
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS Project New Haven
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
AIDS Resource Center Ohio
AIDS United
AIDS/HIV Services Group (ASG)
The Aliveness Project
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Medical Student Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
APICHA Community Health Center
APLA Health & Wellness
ARCH
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health
Forum
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Atlantic Institute Recovery Center
AVAC
Baltimore Student Harm Reduction
Coalition
BOOM! HEALTH
CAEAR Coalition
CAMC Ryan White Part C HIV Program
CANN - Community Access National
Network
Canticle Ministries, Inc.

Care Network of the Treasure Coast
Cascade AIDS Project
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and
Science HIV Cluster
CHOW Project
Clare Housing
Colorado Department of Public Health and
Environment
Community AIDS Network, Inc.
Community Education Group
Community Rehab Center
Community Servings
Compass
Cure For AIDS Coalition
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Empowerment Enterprise II, Inc.
Empowerment Resource Center
Family Centers Inc.
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Georgia Equality
The Global Justice Institute
God's Love We Deliver
Hamilton Health Center Inc.
Harlem United
Harm Reduction Coalition
Heart of Florida United Way
HealthHIV
Heartland Cares
Hepatitis Foundation International
Heritage Health and Housing
HIV Dental Alliance
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
HIVRN Associates
Hope and Help Center of Central Florida,
Inc.
Hope House of St. Croix Valley
Housing Works
Human Rights Campaign
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
Inland Empire HIV Planning Council
International Association of Providers of
AIDS Care
Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth
Network, Inc.

Karuk Tribal Health
Lambda Legal
Latino Commission on AIDS
Legacy Community Health
Life We Live Youth Advocates Of Colors
LifeLinc of Maryland
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Matthew 25 AIDS Services
McClees Clinic, Mercy Health Partners
The McGregor Clinic
Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis
Network
Mental Health Association of Southeast
Florida
Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition
Alliance (MANNA)
Metropolitan Community Churches
Metropolitan Latino AIDS Coalition
(MLAC)
Minnesota AIDS Project
Morris Heights Health Center
Moveable Feast
Nashville CARES
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of State and Territorial
AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Association of County and City
Health Officials
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy
Coalition (NBGMAC)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Action Fund
National Latina Institute for Reproductive
Health
National Latino AIDS Action Network
(NLAAN)
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
North Central Texas HIV Planning Council
(Fort Worth)
OASIS

Our House of Portland
Pacientes de sida pro política sana
Partners for Safe and Healthy Communities
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention
Initiative
PFLAG National
PFLAG of DC
The PLACE of Comfort
Positively Healthy
Positively U, Inc.
Prevention On The Move/ Steward
Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare
Project Inform
Puerto Rico Department of Health
Rosedale Infectious Disease
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Seattle TGA HIV Planning Council
Sexuality Information and Education
Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Southern AIDS Coalition
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative
Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council
STAR Health Center
START at Westminster
Suncoast Hep C Friends
TOUCH-Together Our Unity Can Heal, Inc.
Treatment Access Expansion Project
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
UAB - 1917 Outpatient, Dental & Research
Clinic
Unconditional Love Incorporated
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention
Services (UCHAPS)
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender
Equity
Venice Family Clinic
VillageCare
VOCAL-NY
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Washington Heights CORNER Project
Westbrook Clinic
Women at Work International
The Women's Collective
Women With a Vision, Inc.