



OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM THE HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY: SUSTAIN HIV RESEARCH FUNDING

June 15, 2015

Dear Members of the United States Congress:

As Congress begins work on the FY2016 Labor, HHS, and Education appropriation measure, the 416 undersigned organizations thank you for your continued bi-partisan commitment to addressing the serious public health threat of HIV/AIDS in the United States and across the globe.

We write to express our strong support for increased funding in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and investment in therapies and cures for all of the many diseases that afflict Americans such as Alzheimer's, heart disease, cancer, diabetes and infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS. Investments in health research via NIH pay enormous dividends in the health and well-being of people in the U.S. and around the world. Yet the NIH has been inadequately funded over the past decade. Between FY 2003 and FY 2015, the NIH budget in constant dollars has declined by almost 30%. The race to find better treatments and a cure for cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease and other diseases, and for controlling global epidemics like HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis and malaria, all depend on a long term investment strategy for health research at NIH.

We strongly support the robust funding of research into diseases endemic to the United States, but it would be unwise and misguided to allocate research dollars simply on the basis of disease burden in the US. Research investment also must follow scientific opportunity to have the greatest impact and the need to halt the spread of deadly infectious diseases must be a priority. Investment in research into infectious diseases is critical to the public health and security of our nation and well beyond our borders. The recent Ebola outbreak has underscored the potential for an infectious disease outbreak anywhere in the globe to present a threat to the United States. The failure to act has severe consequences. Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic would benefit not only Americans, but also tens of millions of people across the globe. It would also serve and strengthen the larger global humanitarian and development interests of all Americans.

This is a time to prioritize, not cut HIV/AIDS research. NIH-funded HIV/AIDS research has supported innovative basic science for better drug therapies, behavioral and biomedical prevention interventions that have saved and improved the lives of millions. These advances hold great promise for significantly reducing HIV infection rates and providing more effective treatments for those living with HIV/AIDS in the coming decade. Despite these gains, we cannot lose sight of the sobering reality that there remain over one million people living with HIV in the U.S., and almost 50,000 Americans become newly infected every year. Globally there are more than 35.3 million people living with HIV, the great majority of them

in Sub-Saharan Africa. Research advances to develop a preventive vaccine and a cure for HIV infection hold the potential to end the most devastating epidemic in human history.

Federal support for HIV/AIDS research has also led to new treatments and new approaches to other diseases, including cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, hepatitis, osteoporosis and a wide range of autoimmune disorders. The NIH has recently completed a comprehensive analysis of its HIV research portfolio, which will ensure that funds are allocated to areas of the highest HIV/AIDS research priorities in the years to come.

Thank you for considering these views, and please oppose any effort to reduce HIV/AIDS funding in the FY2016 appropriations process and beyond – at least until such time as we achieve a scalable vaccine and cure. Should you wish to reach us, we can be contacted through Kimberly Miller of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) at kmiller@hivma.org.

Sincerely,

ALASKA

HIV/AIDS Services for African Americans in Alaska, AK

ALABAMA

1917 HIV Outpatient, Research & Dental Clinic, AL

AframSouth, Inc., AL

AIDS Alabama AL

AIDS Alabama South, LLC, AL

Aletheia House, AL

Birmingham AIDS Outreach, AL

Brothers Reaching Others, Inc., AL

Dale Medical Center, AL

Medical AIDS Outreach of Alabama, AL

Selma AIR, AL

Southern AIDS Coalition, AL

Unity Wellness Center, AL

West Alabama AIDS Outreach, AL

ARIZONA

LinQ For Life Incorporate, AZ

The Living Affected Corporation, AZ

Arizona Department of Health Services, AZ

Aunt Rita's Foundation, AZ

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, AZ

CALIFORNIA

AGUILAS, CA

AHS Highland Adult Immunology, CA

AIDS Project Los Angeles, CA

AIDS Services Foundation Orange County, CA

Alameda Health Consortium, CA

APLA Health & Wellness, CA

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, CA

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, CA

Barts-Altadonna Community Health Center, CA

Bienestar Human Services, CA

Black AIDS Institute, CA

California Communities United Institute, CA

California Department of Public Health, CA

CAPS/UCSF, CA

CDPH, CA

Center for Learning & Innovation, San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, CA
Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services, CA
Christie's Place, CA
Consumer, CA
Cure AIDS Coalition, CA
Desert AIDS Project, CA
Flowers Community Initiatives, CA
Foundation for Worldwide Health, CA
HSHB, CA
La Cada, CA
Let's Kick ASS—AIDS Survivor Syndrome, CA
Long Beach Health Department, CA
Los Angeles LGBT Center, CA
Los Angeles Unified School District, CA
Lutheran Social Services, CA
Natural Wholistic Health & Wellness Research Center, CA
Orange County HIV/AIDS Advocacy Team, CA
Pacific Pride Foundation, CA
PEERS, CA
Positive Life Series, CA
Positive Women's Network - USA, CA
Project Inform, CA
PWN USA San Diego Region, CA
Sacramento LGBT Community Center, CA
San Francisco AIDS Foundation, CA
San Francisco Department of Public Health, CA
San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force, CA
San Luis Obispo County AIDS Support Network, CA
Seaside Voter Education Center, CA
The Miguel Urgell Charitable Foundation, CA
The Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation, CA
To Help Everyone Health & Wellness Centers, CA
Transgender Law Center, CA
Turning Point of Central California, CA
University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing, CA
University of California, San Francisco HIV/AIDS Research, CA
Zephyr LTNP Foundation, Inc., CA
Positive Health Program, CA

COLORADO

AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition, CO
Boulder Community Health, CO
Boulder County AIDS Project, CO
Colorado Organizations Responding to AIDS (CORA), CO
HOPE Program, CO
Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, CO
One Colorado Education Fund, CO
PWN USA CO, CO
Servicios de La Raza, CO
The Burnes Institute, CO
THRIVE!: The Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Initiative of Colorado, CO

CONNECTICUT

Alliance for Living, CT
Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, CT
Geri's Closet, CT
HRA of New Britain, CT
Latino Community Services, Inc., CT

New Opportunities, Inc., CT
Waterbury Health Dept., CT
Yale University, CT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

30 for 30 Campaign, DC
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families, DC
AIDS United, DC
CAEAR Coalition, DC
Calvary Healthcare, DC
Center for Health and Gender Equity, DC
Children's National Medical Center, DC
Community Access National Network (CANN), DC
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, DC
Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, North America, DC
HealthHIV, DC
Human Rights Campaign, DC
ICAN, DC
National AIDS Housing Coalition, DC
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors, DC
National Black Justice Coalition, DC
National Center for Lesbian Rights, DC
National Coalition for LGBT Health, DC
National Coalition of STD Directors, DC
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, DC
National Minority AIDS Council, DC
Population Services International (PSI), DC
Pozitively Healthy, DC
Presbyterian AIDS (PAN), DC
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition, DC
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), DC
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS), DC
The AIDS Institute, DC
The American Academy of HIV Medicine, DC
The Women's Collective, DC
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services, DC
Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc., DC
Whitman-Walker Health, DC
Venter For Black Equity, DC

DELAWARE

Delaware HIV Consortium, DE

FLORIDA

ANAC, FL
Bond Community Health Center, FL
Borinquen Medical Centers, FL
Florida International University, FL
Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, FL
Health Educator, FL
Heart, Health, & Healing, Ministries, Inc., FL
Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, Inc., FL
McGregor Clinic Board Member, FL
Metro Wellness & Community Centers, FL
Okaloosa AIDS Support & Informational Services, Inc. (OASIS), FL
Operation Par, FL
PASCO, Inc., FL
PHASEII/SHAPE Programs of LCI, FL
Positive Champions Speakers Bureau, FL

Positive Healthcare of Florida/AHF, FL
The McGregor Clinic, Inc., FL
University of Miami, FL
University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies, FL
University of South Florida, FL

GEORGIA

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta, GA
Clark Atlanta University, GA
Cobb Recovery Center, GA
Columbus Wellness Center, GA
Common Ground Ministries, Inc., GA
Georgia AIDS Coalition, GA
Georgia Equality, GA
HIV Dental Alliance, GA
HOPE Atlanta Programs of Travelers Aid, GA
Opulent Spirit Bath Essentials, GA
Poz Vets USA Intl, GA
ReachOne Foundation, GA
Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, GA
SisterLove, Inc., GA
The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care-Atlanta Chapter, GA
U&L Services, GA

IOWA

The Ice Ridge, LLC, IA

IDAHO

Idaho Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS, ID
Positive Connections Plus, LLC, ID

ILLINOIS

Agape Missions, NFP, IL
AIDS Awareness Advocacy Inc, IL
AIDS Foundation of Chicago, IL
Chicago Women's AIDS Project, IL
Comer Family Foundation, IL
Community Health & Education, Inc., IL
DeLaCerde House, IL
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, IL
Howard Brown Health Center, IL
International Rectal Microbicide Advocates, IL
Making a Difference in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, IL
National Female Condom Coalition, IL
Oak Park Health Dept., IL
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative, IL
Rush University Medical Center, IL
Test Positive Aware Network, IL
THOMAS ASSOCIATES, IL
Writers, Planners, Trainers Inc., IL

INDIANA

TRI - County Health Coalition of Southern Indiana, IN

KANSAS

University of Kansas School of Nursing, KS
HEMA Universal Life Community Services, Inc, KS

LOUISIANA

Aspirations, LA
City of Baton Rouge TGA, LA
EXCELth, INC, LA
Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge, LA

NO/AIDS Task Force (D.B.A. CrescentCare), LA
NORAPC, LA
Priority Health Care, LA
Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council and the WO Moss-Memorial Health Clinic and the Comprehensive Care Clinic, LA
Tulane National Primate Research Center, LA
Volunteers of America, GNO, LA

MASSACHUSETTS

AIDS Action Committee, MA
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, MA
Community Research Initiative of New England (CRI), MA
Education Development Center, MA
Fenway Health, MA
GNBCHC, MA
Justice Resource Institute, MA
Massachusetts General Hospital, MA
Sidney Borum Jr Health Center, MA

MARYLAND

African American Health Alliance, MD
AIDS Action Baltimore, MD
Alabaster, MD
American Sexual Health Association, MD
Baltimore County Department of Health, MD
Center for Public Health and Human Rights, JHSPH, MD
Center for Women Policy Studies, MD
Community Clinic Inc, MD
Evelyn Jordan Center, MD
International Partnership for Microbicides, MD
Jacques Initiative, MD
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, MD
Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, MD
Moveable Feast, MD
National Health Care for the Homeless Council, MD
Older Women Embracing Life, Inc., MD
PeterCares House, MD
Prince George's City Health Dept., MD
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition, MD
The Cave Institute, MD
Treatment Action Group, MD
University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD

MAINE

Horizon Program, ME

MICHIGAN

COMMUNITY FITNESS TODAY INC, MI
Mercy Health Prevention Practices, MI
Wayne State University, MI

MINNESOTA

Clare Housing, MN
Indigenous Peoples Task Force, MN
Minnesota AIDS Project, MN
Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV/AIDS Division Consumer Advisory Committee, MN
One Heartland, MN
Park House, MN
The Aliveness Project, MN
U of MN HIV/STI Intervention & Prevention Studies Program, MN

MISSOURI

AAAHA, MO

City of St. Louis Department of Health, MO
Grace, MO
Positive Advocacy Caucus (P.A.C.), MO
Saint Louis Effort for AIDS, MO
Williams and Associates, MO

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Center for Justice, MS
POZ MS, MS
SeMHI, MS

NORTH CAROLINA

AIDS Community Residence Association Inc, NC
Duke AIDS Research and Treatment Center, NC
Fayetteville State University, NC
FHI 360, NC
MDC CARE Community Advisory Board, NC
RAIN, NC
Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, NC
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative, NC
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
TransHealth Coordinators, NC
Wake Forest Baptist Health, NC
Wake Forest Health Sciences-Social Sciences & Health Policy, NC
Western North Carolina Community Health Services, NC

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force, NH

NEW JERSEY

African American Office of Gay Concerns, NJ
Buddies of New Jersey, Inc., NJ
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, NJ
New Jersey Association on Correction, NJ
North Jersey Community Research Initiative, NJ
Proceed Inc., NJ
Rutgers School of Nursing, NJ
Rutgers university, NJ
SMMC, NJ

NEW MEXICO

H.O.P.E. Alliance, NM

NEVADA

SNHD, NV
Wellness Center at University Medical Center, NV
CCHD, NV

NEW YORK

Acacia Network, NY
ACR Health, NY
ACRIA, NY
African Services Committee, NY
AIDS Center of Queens County, NY
AIDS Network of Western New York, NY
Albany Damien Center, NY
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, NY
Amida Care, NY
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, Greater NY, NY
AVAC, NY
Bailey House, NY
BOOM!Health, NY
Center for HIV Educational Studies and Training, NY

Columbia University School of Nursing, NY
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), NY
Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, NY
God's Love We Deliver, NY
Greater NY Policy Advisory Partnership, NY
Housing Works, NY
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, NY
Iris House, Inc., NY
IslandCare Pharmacy, NY
Latino Commission on AIDS, NY
Liberty Research Group, NY
Love Alive International Foundation, NY
Member from Damien Center, NY
National Working Positive Coalition, NY
New York University, NY
Open Door Family Medical Centers, NY
Ribbon Consulting Group, NY
SMART, NY
SUNY Downstate Medical Center (THEO) Teens Helping Each Other Program, NY
The Fortune Society, NY
The Osborne Association, NY
The Well Project, NY
Transdiaspora Network, NY
Treatment Action Group, NY
Unity Fellowship Church, NY
Upstate Dermatology, NY
VillageCare, NY
Housing Works Community Health, NY

OHIO

AIDS Resource Center Ohio, OH
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, OH
CARE CAB and National CFAR CAB Coalition, OH
Miami Valley Positives for Positives, OH
Ohio AIDS Coalition, OH
The AIDS Institute, OH
The House That Wisdom Built, OH
University of Cincinnati; Case Western Reserve University, OH

OKLAHOMA

Health Outreach Prevention Education, Inc., OK
Other Options, Inc Friends Food Pantry, OK
RAIN Oklahoma, OK

OREGON

Cascade AIDS Project, OR
MAFConsulting, LLC, OR
One in Four Chronic Health, OR
Partnership Project, OR

PENNSYLVANIA

AIDS Care Group, PA
AIDS Coalition of Southwestern PA, PA
AIDSNET, PA
ALPHA Pittsburgh, Inc., PA
ASC, PA
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, PA
Celestine Group, PA
Community Health Net, PA
Drexel University College of Medicine, PA

Health GAP, PA
Health Promotion Council, PA
House of Blahnik, Inc., PA
Keystone First/Amerihealth Caritas, PA
Mazzoni, PA
Philadelphia HIV/AIDS Housing Advisory Board, PA
Positive Women's Network, PA
St. Luke's ASC, PA
St. Luke's Hospital ASC, PA
St. Luke's Health Network, ASC, PA
Temple University, PA
GIRL U CAN DO IT, INC., PA

PUERTO RICO

Ac Tu, CTGA, Medicine School, University of Puerto Rico, PR
Coai, Inc., PR
MHC, Inc., PR
Municipality of San Juan, PR
Pozitive to Positive, PR
University of Puerto Rico, PR

RHODE ISLAND

AIDS Care Ocean State, RI
Brown University, RI
Lifespan, RI

SOUTH CAROLINA

Anderson HIV Clinic, SC
Empowerment Resource Center, SC
Lowcountry AIDS Services, SC
MUSC/Lowcountry AIDS Services Consumer Advisory Board, SC
The Access Network, Inc, SC
Towers Of Empowerment, SC
Wateree AIDSwatch Task Force, SC

TENNESSEE

Citizens Council for Human Rights & Salaam Legal Network, TN
Community HIV Network, TN
Imstilljosh.com, TN
Memphis Health Center, Inc., TN
Nashville Cares, TN
Sister Hood, TN
Street Works, TN

TEXAS

The Montrose Center, TX
AIDS Arms, Inc., TX
AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., TX
AIDS Services of Dallas, TX
Alamo Area Resource Center, TX
ATCIC - CARE Program, TX
Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, TX
City of Houston Health Department, TX
Czar Communications/Community Ally, TX
Female Condom Coalition, TX
Harris Health System, TX
International AIDS Empowerment, TX
Legacy Community Health, TX
Project Transitions, TX
The Afiya Center, TX
The Wright House Wellness Center, TX

Support HIV Research - 10

UT Southwestern Medical Center, TX
World Foundation for Medical Research and Prevention, TX

VIRGINIA

AIDS Resource Center EVMS, VA
American Medical Student Association, VA
ANAC, VA
HIV Medicine Association, VA
IDSA Center for Global Health Policy, VA
Old Dominion University, VA
Seras Inc, VA

WASHINGTON

CareTeams a Program of Samaritan Center, WA
Imagine That! Design, WA
Lifelong, WA
Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church, WA
Multicultural HIV/Hepatitis Action Network, WA
People of Color Against AIDS Network, WA

WISCONSIN

16th Street Community Health Centers, WI
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, WI
Black & White Men Together Milwaukee, WI
DiverseandResilient, WI
Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, WI

WEST VIRGINIA

AIDS Task Force, WV
Caritas House Inc, WV
Community Networks, Inc., WV

cc:

The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable Hal Rogers
The Honorable Nita Lowey