

April 19th, 2018

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Díaz -Balart, Ranking Member Price, Chairwoman Collins, and Ranking Member Reed:

We, the undersigned ___ national, state, and local organizations, write to express our strong support for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program in the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. **We urge you to appropriate at least \$393 million for HOPWA in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.** We thank you for the FY18 allocation of \$375 million which keeps all HOPWA grantees held harmless. Further, we are deeply concerned by the Administration's FY 2019 budget and urge you to reject these cuts. The need for housing continues to rise as there is a nationwide shortage of affordable homes. According to the CDC, in 2014 there were 37,000 new HIV infections and 18,000 AIDS cases. In the United States, about 1.1 million people are living with HIV. Cutting the HOPWA program would result in extremely low-income people living with HIV/AIDS becoming homeless, thereby destabilizing vulnerable individuals who have obtained stable housing. HUD's current estimate is that over 2,900 households would lose their homes if the program was flat-funded at \$375 million and over 7,430 households would lose their homes if HOPWA was funded at \$330 million.

For 25 years, HOPWA has provided a national safety net for very low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. The program provides competitive and formula grants to all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Through these grants, cities and states design and deliver community-based, cost-effective housing and supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA is critical because housing remains the greatest unmet need for people living with HIV/AIDS. Stable housing, like the housing provided by HOPWA grantees, leads to better health outcomes for those living with HIV. For people living with HIV, a better health outcome means viral suppression. An individual who is virally suppressed cannot transmit the HIV virus to another person, thereby ensuring the health of their entire community. Further, HOPWA leverages income from local communities. According to HUD, the HOPWA program leveraged \$860,740,678 from state and local jurisdictions in the last program year.

We know that HIV does not affect all Americans equally, making the need for HOPWA in certain communities all the more important. Eighty-nine percent of HOPWA funds serve extremely-low to very-low-income households. During the last program year twelve percent of HOPWA beneficiaries were veterans and another 52% were considered chronically homeless.

Congress passed legislation in 2015 that included an update to the HOPWA formula. Over the past three decades the HIV epidemic has undergone a shift from a largely urban epidemic to a silent rural one. The change to the HOPWA formula ensures funds go to communities that need it the most and where HIV is most prevalent. However, with the new formula, many jurisdictions are poised to lose significant resources, further exacerbating a cut to HOPWA appropriations.

Therefore, we urge you to fund HOPWA at \$393 million for FY19.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Lauren Banks Killelea, Public Policy Manager, at the National AIDS Housing Coalition (LaurenK@nationalaidshousing.org).

Thank you,

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Access Support Network of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties | San Luis Obispo, CA |
| ADAP Advocacy Association | Washington, D.C. |
| African Services Committee | New York, NY |
| AIDS Action Baltimore | Baltimore, MA |
| AIDS Action Committee | Boston, MA |
| AIDS Alabama | Birmingham, AL |
| AIDS CT | Hartford, CT |
| AIDS Foundation of Chicago | Chicago, IL |
| AIDS Legal Referral Panel | San Francisco, CA |
| AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin | Wisconsin |
| AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland | Cleveland, OH |
| AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition | New York, NY |
| AIDS United | Washington, D.C. |
| American Rainbow Pride PLLC | Muskegon, MI |
| American Sexual Health Association | Research Triangle Park, NC |
| Apex Community Care, Inc. | Danbury, CT |
| Apex Community Care, Inc. | Danbury, CT |
| APLA Health | Los Angeles, CA |
| Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center | San Francisco, CA |
| Association of Nurses in AIDS Care | Akron, OH |
| Bailey House, Inc. | New York, NY |
| Ballantyne Family Medicine | Charlotte, NC |
| BAO (Birmingham AIDS Outreach) | Birmingham, AL |
| BOOM!Health | New York City, NY |
| Boulder County AIDS Project | Boulder, CO |
| Brentwood Community Foundation | Houston, TX |
| Buddies of New Jersey | Hackensack, NJ |
| CARES | Kalamazoo, MI |
| Carolina Alcohol and Drugs Resources | Charlotte, NC |
| Carolinas CARE Partnership | Charlotte, NC |
| Cascade AIDS Project | Portland, OR |
| Catholic Community Services | Everett, WA |
| Center For Black Equity-Baltimore | Baltimore, MD |
| Center for Housing and Health | Chicago, IL |
| CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers | Fort Lauderdale, FL |
| Central Carolina Health Network | Greensboro, NC |
| Cero VIH Puerto Rico | San Juan, PR |
| CHOW Project | Honolulu, HI |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Chrysalis Center, Inc. | Hartford, CT |
| CIHHS | Anna Maria, FL |
| Clare Housing | Minneapolis MN |
| Collaborative Solutions, Inc. | Birmingham, AL |
| Colorado Health Network | Denver, CO |
| Colorado Organizations and Individuals Responding to HIV/AIDS (CORA) | Colorado |
| Community Access National Network | Washington, D.C. |
| Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition | Washington, D.C. |
| Congreso De Latinos Unidos, Inc. | Philadelphia, PA |
| Counter Narrative Project | Atlanta, GA |
| DC Fights Back!! | Washington, D.C. |
| Delaware HIV Consortium | Wilmington, DE |
| Desert AIDS Project | Palm Springs, CA |
| DOORWAYS | St. Louis, MO |
| ECU BSOM ID/Region 10 HIV RWPB Network | Greenville, NC |
| Equality Alabama | Birmingham, AL |
| Enterprise Community Partners | Washington, D.C. |
| Equality California | California |
| Equality North Carolina | Raleigh, NC |
| Equitas Health | Columbus, OH |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Advocacy Office | Washington, D.C. |
| Food & Friends | Washington D.C. |
| Food For Thought | Forestville, CA |
| Foothill AIDS Project | Los Angeles, CA |
| Frannie Peabody Center | Portland, ME |
| Georgia AIDS Coalition | Snellville, GA |
| Georgia Equality | Atlanta, GA |
| Global Justice Institute | New York City, NY |
| GMHC | New York City, NY |
| Gregory House Programs | Honolulu, Hawaii |
| Harlem United | New York City, NY |
| Harm Reduction Coalition | New York City, NY |
| Health Services Center, Inc. | Anniston, AL |
| HEMA Universal Life Community Services, Inc. | Wichita, KS |
| Hep Free Hawaii | Honolulu, HI |
| Hispanic Health Network | New York City, NY |
| HIV AIDS Alliance of Michigan | Michigan |
| HIV Dental Alliance | Atlanta, GA |
| HIV Medicine Association | Arlington, VA |
| Hope House of St Croix Valley | Stillwater Minnesota |
| Housing Works Inc. | New York City, NY |
| Howard Brown Health | Chicago, IL |
| Howard Brown Health | Chicago, IL |
| HRA of New Britain | New Britain CT |

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Human Resources Agency | New Britain, CT |
| Human Rights Campaign | Washington, DC |
| Indigenous Peoples Task Force | Minneapolis, MN |
| Institute for Community Research | Hartford, CT |
| LA LGBT CENTER | Los Angeles, CA |
| Latino Commission on AIDS | New York City, NY |
| Liberty Community Services | New Haven, CT |
| LifeBridge Community Services | Bridgeport, CT |
| Los Angeles LGBT Center | Los Angeles, CA |
| Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama | Birmingham, AL |
| Metropolitan Community Churches | Sarasota, FL |
| Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety | Michigan |
| Minnesota AIDS Project | St. Paul, MN |
| Miracle of Love, Inc. | Orlando, FL |
| Multnomah County Health Department | Portland, OR |
| Municipality of San Juan | San Juan, PR |
| NAACP | Washington, D.C. |
| Nashville CARES | Nashville, TN |
| NASTAD | Washington, D.C. |
| National AIDS Housing Coalition | Washington, D.C. |
| National Alliance to End Homelessness | Washington, D.C. |
| National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition | Washington, D.C. |
| National Black Justice Coalition | Washington, D.C. |
| National Coalition of STD Directors | Washington, D.C. |
| National Community Development Association | Washington D.C. |
| National Housing Law Project | San Francisco, CA |
| National Low Income Housing Coalition | Washington, D.C. |
| National Network to End Domestic Violence | Washington, D.C. |
| National Working Positive Coalition | New York, NY |
| NC AIDS Action Network | Raleigh, NC |
| NC Harm Reduction Coalition | Wilmington, NC |
| NMAC | Washington, D.C. |
| NO/AIDS Task Force (d.b.a. CrescentCare) | New Orleans, LA |
| North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition | Wilmington, NC |
| Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana | San Juan, PR |
| Positive Impact Health Centers | Duluth & Decatur, GA |
| Positive Wellness Alliance | North Carolina |
| Poz Haven Foundation | Denver, CO |
| Poz Military & Vets USA | Atlanta, GA |
| Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN), PHEWA, PCUSA | Washington, D.C. |
| Prism Health | Portland, OR |
| Project Inform | San Francisco, CA |
| Project PLASE, Inc. | Baltimore, MD |
| Puerto Rico Community Network for Clinical Research on AIDS, Inc. | San Juan, PR |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| PWA Coalition of Dallas, Inc. | Dallas, TX |
| RAIN | Charlotte, NC |
| RAIN Oklahoma | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Regional Housing Partnership | Charlotte, NC |
| Rocky Mountain CARES | Denver, CO |
| Rural AIDS Action Networ | St. Cloud, MN |
| Salaam Legal Network & Citizens Council for Human Rights | Memphis, TN |
| San Francisco AIDS Foundation | San Francisco, CA |
| Selma AIR | Selma, AL |
| Shelter Resources, Inc. d.b.a. Bellel Reve | New Orleans, LA |
| Sonya's House Inc. | Dallas, TX |
| Southern AIDS Coalition | Birmingham, AL |
| Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI) | Durham, NC |
| Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force | Nashua, NH |
| St. Vincent de Paul Middletown | Middletown, CT |
| TAPWA Tennessee Association Of People With AIDS | Nashville, TN |
| The AIDS Institute | FL and DC |
| The Aliveness Project | Minneapolis, MN |
| The TransAdvocate | Houston, TX |
| Thrive Alabama | Huntsville, AL |
| Transgender Foundation of America | Houston, TX |
| TransSOCIAL, Inc. | Miami, FL |
| Treatment Action Group | New York, NY |
| Treatment Education Network | Denver, CO |
| Triad Health Project | Greensboro, NC |
| True Colors Fund | Washington, D.C. |
| UCHAPS | Washington, D.C. |
| Under One Roof/WCHS | Raleigh, NC |
| Unity Fellowship of Christ Church-NYC | New York, NY |
| Unity Wellness Center | Opelika, AL |
| VillageCare | New York, NY |
| VOCAL New York | Brooklyn, NY |
| Wellness and Education Community Action Health Network WECAHN | Siler City, NC |
| Whitman-walker Health | Washington, DC |
| Wilson Community Health Center | Wilson, NC |
| Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD) | Oakland, CA |
| YWCA St. Paul | Saint Paul, MN |