

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor HHS) appropriation bill, we write to thank the committee for its past work to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and urge you to uphold this commitment as you formulate the FY 2023 Labor HHS appropriations bill.

An estimated 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV, with about 36,000 new diagnoses each year. HIV remains a non-curable infectious disease but advances in prevention and treatment have decreased new infection rates and improved the quality and length of life for those managing the disease. While great strides have been made in HIV research, as well as access to the support services needed to ensure impacted populations adhere to their care and treatment, more must be done to achieve the goal of ending this epidemic once and for all, particularly among those racial and ethnic communities most impacted by HIV.

Funding to support HIV prevention, health care, and treatment is especially critical as our country moves past the debilitating impacts of COVID-19 and continues to face the opioid crisis, which has led to increased injection drug use.

We are encouraged by the Biden Administration's release of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States 2022–2025 which commits to a 75-percent reduction in HIV infection by 2025. In order to meet this goal the President's budget includes increased funding for HIV prevention, care and treatment as part of the *Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.* initiative. We support these proposals and urge the committee to build upon funding increases in FY 2022 final bill. We join our colleagues in Congress and the Biden Administration in supporting the creation of new programs to increase access to PrEP in order to reach the Strategic Plan goal of increasing PrEP uptake to 50 percent of eligible users. We believe these programs should focus on eliminating racial, ethnic and gender disparities in PrEP coverage, eliminating cost barriers, and expanding knowledge of and demand for PrEP,

Below are specific discretionary programs we ask you to support, along with accompanying justifications.

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, acting as the payer of last resort, provides medications, medical care, and essential coverage completion services to over 560,000 low-income, uninsured, and/or underinsured individuals living with HIV. Those living with HIV who are in care and on treatment have a much higher chance of being virally suppressed, leading to reduced transmission of the virus – over 89 percent of Ryan White clients have achieved viral suppression compared to just 66.5 percent of all people diagnosed with HIV nationwide. This is achieved through clients' access to the high-quality patient centered, comprehensive care that the Ryan White Program provides, which enables it clients to remain in care and adhere to treatment.

The Ryan White Program continues to serve populations that are disproportionately impacted by HIV, including racial and ethnic minorities, who make up three-quarters of Ryan White clients. Over 60 percent of Ryan White clients are living at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. To improve the continuum of care and progress toward an AIDS-free generation, sustained funding for all parts of the Ryan White Program is needed. Additional funding is needed to keep up with increased caseloads and to bring more of the 400,000 people with HIV who are not yet in care and on treatment and work to ensure they are virally suppressed.

For FY 2023, we urge you to fund the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program at a total of \$2.942 billion:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Part A: \$751.1 million | • Part F/AETC: \$58 million |
| • Part B (Care): \$509 million | • Part F/Dental: \$15.4 million |
| • Part B (ADAP): \$968.3 million | • Part F/SPNS: \$34 million |
| • Part C: \$231 million | • Ending the Epidemic Plan: \$290 million |
| • Part D: \$85 million | |

CDC HIV Prevention and Surveillance

There has been incredible progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS over the last 30 years. Because of the efforts by CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) and its grantees, hundreds of thousands of new infections have been averted and billions of dollars in treatment costs have been saved. This confirms that HIV prevention efforts are working. Through expanded HIV testing efforts, largely funded by the CDC, the number of people who are aware of their HIV status has increased from 81 percent in 2006 to 87 percent. Yet many communities are still experiencing increased rates of HIV infection. Continued funding for CDC's HIV prevention programs will support HIV testing, targeted prevention interventions, public education campaigns, and surveillance activities. Ending HIV will take a multifaceted approach. This funding supports a combination of effective evidence-based approaches including testing, linkage to care, condoms, and syringe service programs, and it also supports access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), FDA approved drugs that keeps HIV negative people from becoming infected.

For FY 2023, we urge you to fund the CDC Division of HIV Prevention at \$1.233 billion, including \$310 million for Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative, and the Opioid Related

Infectious Diseases program at \$150 million.

Community Health Centers PrEP Program

As part of the *Ending the HIV Epidemic* initiative, the HRSA Health Center Program is focused on expanding HIV prevention services, including outreach, care coordination, and access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)-related services to people at high risk for HIV transmission through selected health centers in the identified jurisdictions. These health centers have reported that over 151,000 patients received PrEP services in the first year of the EHE Initiative. Increased funding is needed to expand the number of health centers eligible for this funding to expand PrEP throughout the country, particularly among those communities that are not currently benefiting from PrEP.

For FY 2023, we request that HRSA's Health Center PrEP Program receive a total of \$172 million.

HIV/AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health

AIDS research supported by the NIH is far-reaching and has supported innovative basic science for better drug therapies, and behavioral and biomedical prevention interventions, saving and improving the lives of millions around the world. Specifically, AIDS research supported by the NIH has proved the efficacy of PrEP, the effectiveness of treatment as prevention, and the first partially effective AIDS vaccine. We are appreciative of the committee's work to increase funding for the NIH in recent years and urge you to direct increased resources to continued HIV/AIDS research for more long-acting HIV treatments and prevention drugs, vaccines, and ultimately a cure.

For FY 2023, we request that the NIH Office of AIDS Research receive a total of \$3.875 billion.

Office of Infectious Diseases and HIV/AIDS Policy

The HHS Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP), within the Assistant Secretary of Health, provides strategic leadership for HIV, STI, viral hepatitis, and other infectious disease programs throughout HHS. The office is integral in achieving the goal of ending HIV by 2030 and requires additional funding to hire staff and ensure they have the resources needed to coordinate government wide and community activities to implement the national strategic plans to end HIV, hepatitis and STIs.

For FY 2023, we request that the Office of Infectious Diseases and HIV/AIDS Policy receive \$20 million.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of domestic HIV/AIDS programs that serve the 1.2 million people living with HIV in our communities across the country and to prevent future infections.

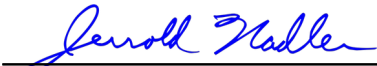
Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



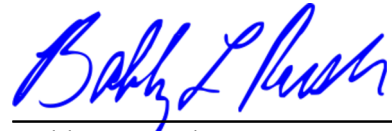
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Maxine Waters
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
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Al Green
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Antonio Delgado
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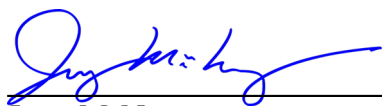
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Jenniffer González-Colón
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David Scott
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Jerry McNerney
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Ron Kind
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Shontel M. Brown
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Brian Higgins
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Gwen S. Moore
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Stephen F. Lynch
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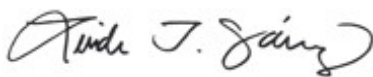
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



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Cheri Bustos
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Greg Stanton
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Nikema Williams
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Conor Lamb
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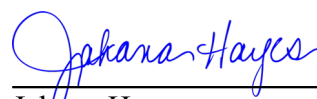
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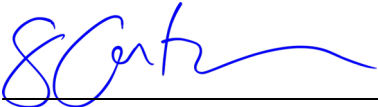
Darren Soto
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Diana DeGette
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Chellie Pingree
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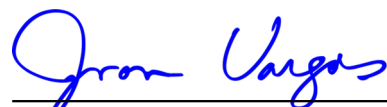
Sean Casten
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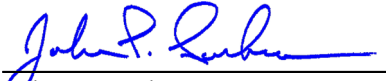
Adam Smith
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Jamie Raskin
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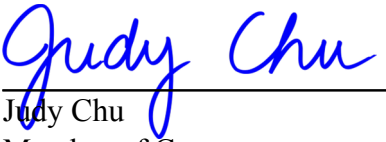
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



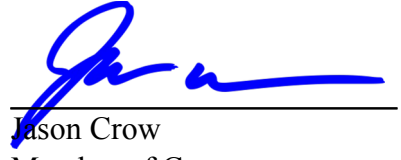
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



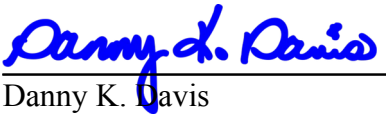
Gerald E. Connolly
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress



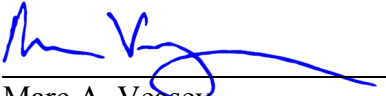
Jason Crow
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



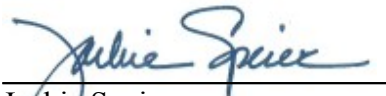
Hakeem Jeffries
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Marc A. Veasey
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Jackie Speier
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Veronica Escobar
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Dwight Evans
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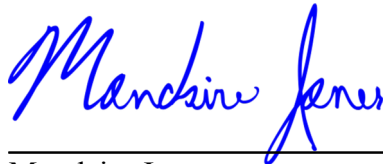
Troy Carter
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Maria Elvira Salazar
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Mondaire Jones
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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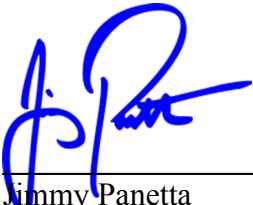
Peter A. DeFazio
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Mark Takano
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Elissa Slotkin
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Jimmy Panetta
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David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



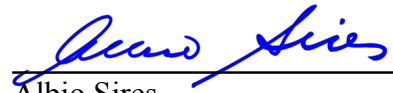
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



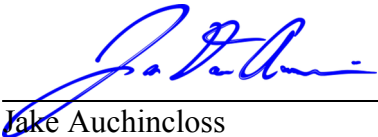
Zoe Lofgren
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Albio Sires
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Jake Auchincloss
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André Carson
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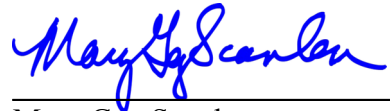
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



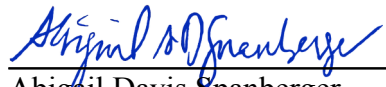
Ted Deutch
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Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



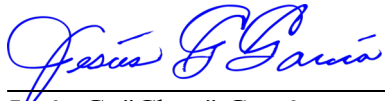
Doris Matsui
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Jim Costa
Member of Congress



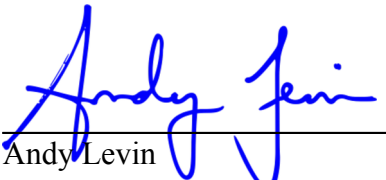
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



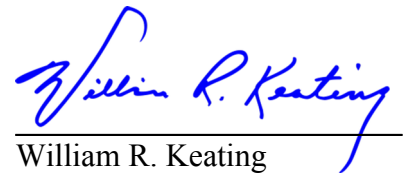
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress




Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



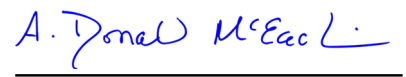
Andy Levin
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William R. Keating
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Andy Kim
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A. Donald McEachin
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Katie Porter
Member of Congress




Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress




Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



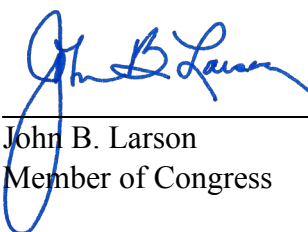
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



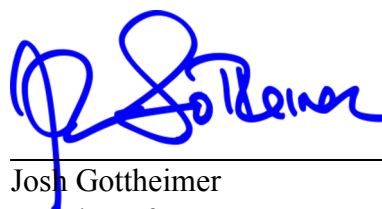
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



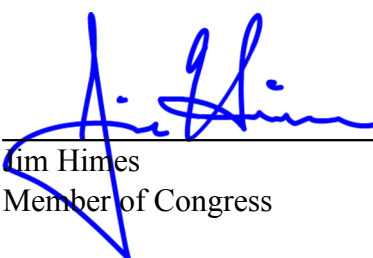
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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
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Angie Craig
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Daniel T. Kildee
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