



July 24, 2023

Hon. Patty Murray  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Susan Collins  
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Tammy Baldwin  
Chair, Subcommittee on Department of Labor,  
Health and Human Services,  
and Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Department  
of Labor, Health and Human Services,  
and Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Murray and Baldwin, Vice Chair Collins and Ranking Member Capito,

Thank you for your continued support for robust funding for public health and diseases prevention. We, the undersigned members of the Partnership to End HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis, are writing to express our grave concerns regarding the House Appropriations Committee's FY24 Labor-HHS funding bill and to reiterate our support for robust funding. The House's bill includes substantial cuts to vital, life-saving programs that play a crucial role in our nation's efforts to combat the HIV epidemic and harmful, anti-LGBTQ+ policy riders.

The House Appropriations Committee proposed drastic cuts to the following programs:

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program: The proposed \$238 million cut – including the elimination of Part F (-\$73 million) and the elimination of Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative Funding (-\$165 million) - would severely impact the nation's safety net for HIV care and treatment, affecting the most vulnerable populations. **The Partnership requests \$3.058 billion in total funding for Ryan White programs.**
- National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP): The proposed \$220 million elimination of Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative could hinder efforts to prevent and control the spread of HIV, and the syndemics of hepatitis, STDs, and TB. **The Partnership requests \$2.318 billion for the NCHHSTP.**
- Minority HIV/AIDS Fund: The proposed \$32 million cut threatens the progress made in addressing health disparities among marginalized communities. **The Partnership requests \$105 million for the Minority HIV/AIDS Fund.**
- Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Initiative: The proposed \$157 million elimination of funding for HRSA's Health Center Program's EHE Funding, coupled with eliminations of EHE funding within CDC and Ryan White, risks undermining years of progress in preventing new HIV infections, expanding PrEP use, ensuring people living with HIV have access to care, and depriving vulnerable communities of essential care and prevention resources. **The Partnership requests \$1.032 billion for these EHE programs.**

It is crucial to recognize that the proposed cuts go against bipartisan initiatives and threaten the work being done to combat HIV and STDs. The Ryan White Act, with its bipartisan support, has been instrumental in providing quality care and treatment services to more than half a million people with HIV. Similarly, the EHE program, launched under the Trump Administration, has made significant strides in reducing new HIV infections by scaling up key prevention and treatment strategies.

Our nation cannot afford to abandon the fight against HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis when progress toward their eradication is being made. These essential programs are vital to supporting vulnerable communities, reducing health disparities, and ensuring a healthier future for all Americans.

We appeal to you to protect the health of our communities by supporting robust funding for these critical programs. By doing so, we can continue making significant strides in combatting HIV and STDs and securing a brighter future for our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We sincerely hope for your support in restoring and increasing funding for HIV and STD programs, and in taking a decisive stand for the well-being of all Americans.

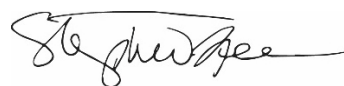
Sincerely,



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