

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chair, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chair, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Cassidy and Crapo, and Ranking Members Wyden and Sanders:

On behalf of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP), a coalition of more than 120 local, regional, and national organizations advocating for people living with and vulnerable to HIV, we write to express our profound dismay regarding the recent firing of the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The sudden dismissal comes at a moment when steady, trustworthy CDC leadership is essential. As the nation's public health backbone, the agency directs HIV prevention and surveillance, combats viral hepatitis, addresses rising sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and tuberculosis (TB) rates, and coordinates responses to emerging threats.

We are at a critical tipping point: our nation's fight to end the HIV epidemic risks veering off track, STIs—including congenital syphilis—are surging, and time is slipping away to deploy curative hepatitis treatments to their full potential. We risk losing hard-won progress if CDC lacks strong, trusted leadership and sufficient funding. In their absence, these epidemics accelerate, drive up costs for taxpayers, and create new hardships for patients.

When leaders destabilize the CDC or undermine faith in its scientific mission, they endanger millions of Americans. They shut the window on opportunities that may never return.

We urge the Committees to exercise strong oversight of this decision and to ensure that political considerations are not permitted to interfere with CDC's scientific integrity and public health responsibilities. Our organizations work every day with communities most impacted by HIV and related conditions, and we see firsthand how much is at stake when policymakers sideline science and evidence-based public health approaches.

We ask that you call on the Administration to guarantee continuity of CDC programs, support its workforce, and protect the agency’s ability to make independent, science-driven decisions. We must uphold these principles now, and any future CDC Director nominee must commit to carrying them out. These steps are crucial for sustaining the progress made in HIV prevention, treatment, and care and for maintaining the broader public health infrastructure that the nation relies on.

Thank you for your leadership and oversight during this critical moment. If you have any questions or would like to meet, please reach out to the FAPP co-chairs: John Meade (john@AVAC.org), Kathie Hiers (kathie@aidsalabama.org), or Mike Weir (mweir@NASTAD.org).

ENDORSEMENTS AND SIGN-ONS:

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| Act Now: End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition | Latino Commission on AIDS |
| AIDS Action Baltimore | NASTAD |
| AIDS Alabama | National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development |
| AIDS Alabama South | National Black Gay Men’s Advocacy Coalition |
| AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families | National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network |
| AIDS Foundation Chicago | National Coalition for LGBTQ Health |
| AIDS United | National Coalition of STD Directors |
| Association of Nurses in AIDS Care | National Working Positive Coalition |
| AVAC | NMAC |
| CAEAR Coalition | PrEP4All |
| Equality California | Ribbon-A Center of Excellence |
| Fast-Track Cities Institute | SAGE |
| Five Horizons Health Services | San Francisco AIDS Foundation |
| Georgia AIDS Coalition | Save HIV Funding Campaign |
| HealthHIV | The AIDS Institute |
| HIV Medicine Association | The Reunion Project |
| HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute | The Well Project |
| Housing Works, Inc. | Treatment Action Group (TAG) |
| Human Rights Campaign | U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus |
| International Association of Providers of AIDS Care | |
| Unity Arc Advocacy Group, LLC | |

