September 11, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

We, the undersigned 227 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 are deeply concerned by the Administration’s FY 2019 budget, and though the Senate flat-funded HOPWA, it is not enough. This approach would result in homelessness for extremely low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. We do thank and applaud this committee for the FY18 HOPWA funding level and thank the House for providing $393 million for HOPWA for FY19.

As you are well aware, the Congress passed legislation in 2015 that included an update to the HOPWA formula. We applaud the change to the HOPWA formula that 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. To mitigate these losses and to help jurisdictions plan for full implementation, we are advocating for an increase in funding of the HOPWA program to $393 million. HUD’s current estimate is that over 2,900 households would lose their homes if the program was flat-funded at $375 million.

For 26 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.

We know that HIV does not affect all Americans equally, making the need for HOPWA in certain communities all the more important. Ninety-one percent of HOPWA funds serve extremely-low to very-low-income households. During the last program year 12% of HOPWA beneficiaries were veterans and another 52% were considered chronically homeless. The program placed 24,851 new individuals into housing while providing housing for 53,108 households. 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.

**Therefore, we urge you to at least fund HOPWA at the House’s recommendation of $393 million.**
If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Lauren Banks Killelea, Director of Policy, at the National AIDS Housing Coalition (LaurenK@nationalaidshousing.org).

Thank you,

AcadianaCares
Access Support Network of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties
Action Wellness
ADAP Advocacy Association
AdvanceAbilities, Inc.
African American Health Alliance
African Services Committee
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Action Committee
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alabama South
AIDS CT
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Legal Referral Panel
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition
AIDS United
American Rainbow Pride PLLC
American Sexual Health Association
Amida Care
Apex Community Care, Inc.
Apex Community Care, Inc.
APLA Health
Archway Housing and Services/ Archway Investment Corporation
Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Athlete Ally
Bailey House, Inc.
Ballantyne Family Medicine
BAO (Birmingham AIDS Outreach)
Bill’s Kitchen, Inc.
BOOM!Health
Boulder County AIDS Project
Brentwood Community Foundation
Buddies of New Jersey
CAEAR Coalition
CARES
Carolina Alcohol and Drugs Resources
Carolinanas CARE Partnership

Lafayette, LA
San Luis Obispo, CA
Philadelphia, PA
Washington, DC
West Hollywood, CA
Dunkirk, MD
New York, NY
Baltimore, MA
Boston, MA
Birmingham, AL
Mobile, AL
Hartford, CT
Chicago, IL
San Francisco, CA
Wisconsin
Cleveland, OH
New York, NY
Washington, DC
Muskegon, MI
Research Triangle Park, NC
New York, NY
Danbury, CT
Danbury, CT
Los Angeles, CA
Lakewood, CO
San Francisco, CA
Akron, OH
New York, NY
New York, NY
Charlotte, NC
Birmingham, AL
San Juan, PR
New York City, NY
Boulder, CO
Houston, TX
Hackensack, NJ
Washington, DC
Kalamazoo, MI
Charlotte, NC
Charlotte, NC
Global Justice Institute
GMHC
Greater Community AIDS Project of East Central IL
Gregory House Programs
Grounded Solutions Network
Harlem United
Harm Reduction Coalition
Hawai‘i Health and Harm Reduction Center
HealthHIV
Health Services Center, Inc.
Healthy Teen Network
The Health Trust
HEMA Universal Life Community Services, Inc.
Hep Free Hawaii
Hispanic Health Network
HIV AIDS Alliance of Michigan
HIV Dental Alliance
HIV Medicine Association
Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, Inc.
Hope House of St Croix Valley
Housing Works, Inc.
Howard Brown Health
HRA of New Britain
Human Resources Agency
Human Rights Campaign
Indigenous Peoples Task Force
Institute for Community Research
Joseph’s House
Kingsport Housing at Redevelopment Authority
LA LGBT CENTER
Lansing Area AIS Network
Latino Commission on AIDS
LeadingAge
Legal Action Center
Liberty Community Services
LifeBridge Community Services
Living Room, Inc.
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama
Medical Advocacy and Outreach
Metropolitan Community Churches
Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety
Minnesota AIDS Project
Mississippi Positive Network
Miracle of Love, Inc.
Moveable Feast, Inc.  
Multnomah County Health Department  
Municipality of San Juan  
My Brother’s Keeper, Inc.  
NAACP  
Nashville CARES  
NASTAD  
National AIDS Housing Coalition  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Association for County Community and Economic Development  
National Black Gay Men’s Advocacy Coalition  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Community Development Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Housing Law Project  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Working Positive Coalition  
NC AIDS Action Network  
NC Harm Reduction Coalition  
NMAC  
NNEDV  
NO/AIDS Task Force (d.b.a. CrescentCare)  
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition  
North Jersey Community Research Initiative  
Northeast Arkansas Regional AIDS Network  
Open Hand Atlanta  
Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana  
Partnership Project  
Project PLASE  
Positive Impact Health Centers  
Positive Wellness Alliance  
Poz Haven Foundation  
Poz Military & Vets USA  
Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN), PHEWA, PCUSA  
Prism Health  
Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS  
Project Inform  
Project PLASE, Inc.  
Puerto Rico Community Network for Clinical Research on AIDS, Inc.
PWA Coalition of Dallas, Inc.  
RAIN  
RAIN Oklahoma  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Regional Housing Partnership  
Rocky Mountain CARES  
Rural AIDS Action Network  
Salaam Legal Network & Citizens Council for Human Rights  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
SAVE, Inc.  
Selma AIR  
Services for the UnderServed  
Shanti  
Shelter Resources, Inc. d.b.a. Belle Reve  
Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation  
Sonya's House Inc.  
Southern AIDS Coalition  
Southern Colorado Health Network  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)  
Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force  
SSTAR  
St. Vincent de Paul Middletown  
TAPWA Tennessee Association Of People With AIDS  
Team Management 2000 Inc.  
The AIDS Institute  
The Aliveness Project  
The TransAdvocate  
Thomas Judd Care Center at Munson Medical Center  
Thrive Alabama  
Transgender Foundation of America  
Transgender Law Center  
TransSOCIAL, Inc.  
Treatment Action Group  
Treatment Education Network  
Triad Health Project  
Trillium Health  
True Colors Fund  
TruLiving Travel, LLC  
Tulsa CARES  
UCHAPS  
Under One Roof/WCHS  
UNIFIED-HIV Health and Beyond  
Unity Fellowship of Christ Church-NYC  
Unity Wellness Center  
Upstate University Hospital  

Dallas, TX  
Charlotte, NC  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Dunkirk, MD  
Charlotte, NC  
Denver, CO  
St. Cloud, MN  
Memphis, TN  
San Francisco, CA  
Kansas City, MO  
Selma, AL  
New York, NY  
San Francisco, CA  
New Orleans, LA  
Auburn, CA  
Dallas, TX  
Birmingham, AL  
Colorado Springs, CO  
Durham, NC  
Nashua, NH  
Fall River, MA  
Middletown, CT  
Nashville, TN  
Newark, NJ  
FL and DC  
Minneapolis, MN  
Houston, TX  
Traverse City, MI  
Huntsville, AL  
Houston, TX  
Oakland, CA  
Miami, FL  
New York, NY  
Denver, CO  
Greensboro, NC  
Rochester, NY  
Washington, DC  
Muskegon, MI  
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Detroit, MI  
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Opelika, AL  
Syracuse, NY
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