

AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition

(An affiliated workgroup of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership)

October 26, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Impact of Sequestration on Domestic HIV/AIDS Programs

Dear Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Leader McConnell, and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition (ABAC), a work group of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP), and the undersigned organizations, we urge you and the President to reach an agreement that will prevent the devastating sequestration cuts to domestic HIV/AIDS programs that are scheduled to occur on January 2, 2013. Instead, we ask that you find a balanced solution that will address the federal deficit that does not cut critical non-defense discretionary programs and other programs such as Medicaid and Medicare that so many people with HIV/AIDS depend upon for their care and treatment.

We believe raising revenue is an essential part of a balanced approach to deficit reduction. Failure to include revenue increases will force additional harmful cuts to critical programs that will cost more in both lives and dollars over the long-term.

Sequestration cuts, scheduled to take place in just a few weeks, will reverse efforts to prevent HIV in our country and severely disrupt the system of lifesaving care and treatment that today serves over 500,000 low-income people with HIV/AIDS. With 50,000 new infections each year and a record 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS, we cannot turn our backs on the remarkable progress we have made in preventing and treating HIV/AIDS at a time when we know how to prevent and treat HIV.

Assuming that in FY 2013 sequestration cuts are 8.2 percent, below is a list of some of the discretionary programs that either provide care and treatment for people with HIV/AIDS, or

work to prevent future HIV infections. **Based on a calculation using FY12 spending levels, a total of \$538 million will be cut from these vital programs:**

Program	FY2013 Cut
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HIV Prevention	-\$64 million
• Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	-\$196 million
• National Institutes of Health (NIH) AIDS Research	-\$251 million
• Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)	-\$27 million
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	Total: -\$538 million

The impact of these harmful cuts would translate into the following:

- **15,708 people** would lose access to crucial life-saving drugs due to a \$77 million cut to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program
- **4,738 households** would lose housing support
- **460 AIDS research grants** would be eliminated

In addition to the programs above, people living with HIV or who are at risk of being infected with HIV depend on many other non-defense discretionary (NDD) and mandatory programs, including several at the CDC, Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and others that will be cut by sequestration. [For a more complete list detailing the level of expected cuts for each program go to: [ABAC Chart](#)]

NDD programs have already suffered substantial funding cuts over the past several years amounting to over a 15% funding reduction since 2010. Through the budget caps put in place by the Budget Control Act, NDD programs are slated to receive even more cuts over the next decade. With caseloads growing and new HIV infections occurring every day, these programs cannot afford to take additional reductions. Also, as you work toward a solution, please remember that Medicaid and Medicare are two of the largest payers of HIV/AIDS care and treatment in the nation and must be protected.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of these important programs.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact ABAC Co-Chairs Carl Schmid at cschmid@theaidsinstitute.org or Donna Crews at dcrews@aidsunited.org.

Sincerely,

ActionAIDS
ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)
Advocates for Youth
African American Health Alliance
African Services Committee
AID Atlanta, Inc.

AID Gwinnett
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Interfaith Network
AIDS Legal Referral Panel
AIDS Partnership Michigan
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS Resource Council, Inc.
AIDS Treatment News
AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine
The American Medical Students Association (AMSA)
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
ANIZ, Inc.
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Baltimore County Department of Health
Bering Omega Community Services
Boulder County AIDS Project
Bronx AIDS Services
CAEAR Coalition
CANN - Community Access National Network
Cascade AIDS Project
Center for Women Policy Studies
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Central City AIDS Network
Common Ground - the Westside Community HIV/AIDS Center
Community Education Group
The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
Consumer Caucus
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
DYNs Services, Inc.
East Bay AIDS Center (EBAC)
Florida Keys HIV Community Planning Partnership
Genesis Alliance
Georgia Equality
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
God's Love We Deliver, Inc.
Grady Infectious Disease Program
Greater Baltimore HIV Health Services Planning Council
Harlem United

Harm Reduction Coalition
Harvard College Global Health and AIDS Coalition
The Health Initiative, Inc.
Health Students Taking Action Together
HealthHIV
Here's to Life, Inc.
HIV ACCESS Alameda County, California
HIV Dental Alliance (HIVdent)
HIV Law Project
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan
HIV/AIDS Resource Center
HOPE Atlanta Programs of Travelers Aid
Housing Works
Human Rights Campaign
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
Keeping Families Together
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
Latino Commission on AIDS
Legacy Community Health Services
LifeLinc of Maryland
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Living Room, Inc.
Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network
Metropolitan Latino AIDS Coalition (MLAC)
Minnesota AIDS Project
MJSR Enterprises, Inc.
Montrose Counseling Center
Moveable Feast
MUSC/LAS Consumer Advisory Board
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Association of County and City Health Officials
The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
New England AIDS Education and Training Center
New Mexico Hepatitis Alliance, Inc.
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
Office of Health Policy and AIDS Funding
Ohio AIDS Coalition, a Division of AIDS Resource Center Ohio
Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services, Inc. (OASIS)
Park West Health System, Inc.

Paterson Counseling Center, Inc.
Positive Impact, Inc.
Positive Iowans Taking Charge
Project Inform
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc.
Resource Center Dallas
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Shanti Project
Siouxland Community Health Center (SCHC)
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)
START at Westminster
TILTT, Inc. (Transgender Individuals Living Their Truth, Inc.)
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
U.S. Positive Women's Network & WORLD
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS)
VillageCare
VNACJ Community Health Center, Inc.

cc: Members, United States Senate and House of Representatives