



February 28, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: HIV/AIDS & Related Programs in Final FY2017 Appropriation Bills

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you consider a final FY2017 appropriation bill, the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition (ABAC), a work group of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership, urges you to maintain funding for all domestic HIV/AIDS and related programs. The Labor, HHS and Education bills considered by the 114th Congress (S.3040 and H.R.5926) contained damaging funding cuts that we urge you to reject.

On September 12, 2016, ABAC sent this [letter](#), signed by 158 organizations, which outlined the impact of the proposed cuts. As you craft a final bill, we urge you maintain funding for all domestic HIV/AIDS programs. While we are concerned with the proposed cuts in previous bills (outlined below), we are also concerned by potential across-the-board or additional cuts to specific programs that would harm our country's ability to prevent new HIV infections and provide care and treatment to those who are living with HIV. Our concern has been heightened by the recent discussion to increase spending in certain areas, which would place greater pressure to cut other programs, particularly those that are in non-defense discretionary accounts.

For a complete listing of current and proposed funding levels of specific domestic HIV programs, along with ABAC requests, see the ABAC funding [chart](#).

For your information, below are the cuts that were proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill that we urge you to reject:

- The elimination of the **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program's Special Programs of National Significance (SPNS)**
- \$4 million from the **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program's Part C program**
- \$5.9 million from the **HHS Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund**
- \$5 million from the **CDC's Division of STD Prevention**
- \$5 million from the **CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination**

We also urge Congress to restore the proposed cuts by the House Appropriations Committee that would eliminate or make substantial cuts to:

- **The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program**
- **Title X Family Planning Program**
- **Affordable Care Act**

Additionally, we ask Congress in the final appropriations measure to maintain funding to at least the current levels for the following programs:

- the remaining parts of the **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program**
- the **CDC Division of HIV Prevention**
- the **CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health**
- the **CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis**

Finally, we ask Congress to:

- Support proposed increases to the **National Institutes of Health**, and expect some of these increases to go to AIDS-specific research
- Support the language included in both the House and Senate bills regarding **syringe services programs**
- Eliminate funding for the **abstinence-only-until-marriage** grant program, written in the bills as “sexual risk avoidance”
- Secure increased funding for the **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)** program in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill to ensure that households receiving funding through HOPWA will not face homelessness.

Each of these federal programs is vital to the success of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and to one day achieving an AIDS-free generation.

We thank you for your continued leadership to fight against HIV/AIDS. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact ABAC co-chairs:

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cc: Members, House and Senate Appropriations Committees