

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

We write to request that the Committee once again support the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program in the FY 2018 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. Along with the HIV/AIDS community, including the National AIDS Housing Coalition, we ask for a funding level of \$350 million, a \$15 million increase, to ensure that as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enacts the updated HOPWA formula, no jurisdiction loses funding or leaves current HOPWA residents without supportive housing. We urge you to fund this important, highly effective, and bipartisan program.

For 25 years, HOPWA has provided a national safety net for people battling 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 so important 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 by reducing the risk of transmission to a partner by 96 percent, reducing emergency room visits by 36 percent and hospitalizations by 57 percent. Providing HOPWA grants saves money for federal, state, and local governments.

Despite its efficiency and effectiveness, HOPWA remains chronically underfunded. In FY 2017, with your support, we kept HOPWA funding at \$335 million for the second year in a row, after years of under-funding. At the same time, Congress passed legislation to update the existing HOPWA formula and provide more funding to areas of the country where the disease is growing. Those formula changes will result in several states and cities losing a significant amount of funding the FY 2018. In a program as lean and efficient as HOPWA, less funding means less people served. At current estimates, 3,000 people will lose housing this year under the new HOPWA formula.

We request an increase of \$15 million in funding to ensure that no one loses their housing in FY 2018. This modest increase will keep people in their homes and save lives. At a time when Medicaid and many other programs on which people with HIV/AIDS rely are facing major changes, maintaining stable and secure housing may be the difference between life and death for many of the families and individuals who rely on HOPWA. We urge you to ensure no one loses their home this year.

HOPWA is an essential component in the array of programs needed to assure the availability of safe, affordable housing for low-income people with HIV/AIDS. As HOPWA faces major changes that put housing at risk for 3,000 current HOPWA residents, we urge the Committee to

recommend funding for HOPWA at \$350 million in the FY 2018 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler

Joe Crowley
Joe Crowley

Pramila Jayapal
Pramila Jayapal

Rosa L. DeLauro

Judy Chu

John M. Garamendi

Wm Lacy Clay

Aed Delois

Judith Spier

Mike Conaway

Eliot L. Engel

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Bebe Rebozo

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Danny Heck

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Jim W. Brown

Ed Brown

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Jim Sp

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Tulsi Gabbard

Michelle Lynn Dinkens

John

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Don R. D.

William D.

Michael C. Capone

Joyce Beatty

Brian Walker

Al Lawson

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Donald

Robert Kelly

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M. V.

Sandy Lee

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Rail M. Hjalva

Brenda L. Lawrence

Keith L. L...

Ken Smith

Marion Waters

Daniel McElhinne

Jenni Sewell

Dana R. White

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Kathy Castro

Sheila Jackson Lee Bobby L. Lee

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Marcia T. Judge

Fredonica S. Wilson

FY18 Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS

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FY18 Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS

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92. Bonnie Watson Coleman
93. Peter Welch
94. Frederica Wilson