

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to request that you provide an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018.

Racial and ethnic minorities continue to be severely and disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS in the United States. Minorities represent the majority of new HIV infections, people living with HIV/AIDS, and deaths among people with HIV/AIDS. African Americans account for 44% of new HIV infections, and Latinos account for 24%. Asian Americans account for an additional 2% of new infections. Indeed, the rate of new infections among African Americans is about 8 times that of whites, and the rate among Latinos is about 3 times that of whites.

The Minority AIDS Initiative is an indispensable tool in the effort to combat these unacceptable disparities. This critical initiative targets funds for HIV/AIDS prevention, screening, treatment, education, and outreach to minority communities heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS. The funds are provided to community-based organizations that serve minority communities to help them develop capacity and deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services. Consequently, the initiative fills gaps where the needs are the greatest and strengthens efforts to fight the epidemic nationwide.

We therefore urge you to provide \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2018. We thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to working with you to expand programs for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in minority communities throughout the United States.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters



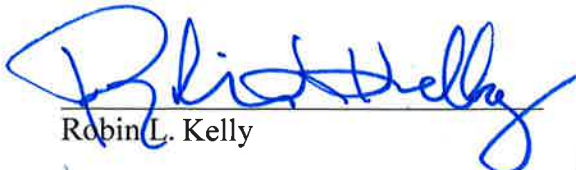
Raúl M. Grijalva



Barbara Lee



Madeleine Z. Bordallo



Robin L. Kelly



Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Raul Ruiz



G. K. Butterfield

Kathy Cast

Nol A Brady

Sheta Jackson Lee

~~Flora Jackson~~

Leip Ellison

Wynni Vani

Emil Mo

Marcia L. Judge

Aed Denton

Louis M. Slaughter

Jerrold Nadler

Danmya K. Davis

Jeri Sewell

Karen Bass

Iwan Looe

W. J. Mohr

Alvin Ling  
Phu L. Kasong

Jatin Speer

John Longpré

Helen Johnson

Boni White Collier

Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson

Donna Scott

Brenda Lawrence

Judy Chen

Bob Johnson

Kregory Weeks

John Smith

John Vargas

Tony Cardenas

Michael E. Capuano

Beto O'Rourke

Paul Kelly

Paul Kelly

Peter Welch

Flynn Training

Ben R. Liza

Eddie Bennie Johnson

Marcia DeLuca

John A

Joyce Beatty

Jan Scott

Macey E. Pickett

Pravinda Jeyaraj

Jim W. Brown

John Lewis

J. R. E.

Ann Adams

Danny Heck

Ted W. Linn

M. V. J.

Sandy Lewin

Jack Poling

Jan Schaefer

A. E.

Linda J. Sanchez

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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Wm. Jay Chapp

Am Lm

Eleanor H. Norton

Cheri Bustos

Joseph Crowley

Am Lm

Flo Vele

A. Donald McEachin

Daniel J. Keenan

Elizabeth H. Esty

Michelle Lujan Grisham

DMR J. J.

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**Minority AIDS Initiative, FY 2018**  
**List of Signatories**  
**April 6, 2017**

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.	John Lewis
Karen Bass	Ted W. Lieu
Joyce Beatty	Ben Ray Luján
Madeleine Z. Bordallo	Michelle Lujan Grisham
Robert A. Brady	Sean Patrick Maloney
Cheri Bustos	A. Donald McEachin
G. K. Butterfield	James P. McGovern
Michael E. Capuano	Gregory W. Meeks
Tony Cárdenas	Gwen Moore
André Carson	Jerrold Nadler
Kathy Castor	Eleanor Holmes Norton
Judy Chu	Beto O'Rourke
Wm. Lacy Clay	Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Emanuel Cleaver, II	Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Steve Cohen	Stacey E. Plaskett
John Conyers	Mark Pocan
Joe Crowley	Jared Polis
Elijah E. Cummings	Cedric L. Richmond
Danny K. Davis	Raul Ruiz
Mark DeSaulnier	Bobby L. Rush
Ted Deutch	Linda T. Sánchez
Keith Ellison	Jan Schakowsky
Elizabeth H. Esty	David Scott
Marcia L. Fudge	Terri Sewell
Ruben Gallego	Albio Sires
Vicente Gonzalez	Louise Slaughter
Raúl M. Grijalva	Adam Smith
Colleen Hanabusa	Darren Soto
Alcee L. Hastings	Jackie Speier
Denny Heck	Mark Takano
Sheila Jackson Lee	Juan Vargas
Pramila Jayapal	Marc Veasey
Hakeem Jeffries	Filemon Vela
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.	Nydia M. Velázquez
Eddie Bernice Johnson	Tim Walz
Robin L. Kelly	Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Daniel T. Kildee	Maxine Waters
Brenda L. Lawrence	Bonnie Watson Coleman
Barbara Lee	Peter Welch
Sander M. Levin	John Yarmuth