

HIV Health Care Access Working Group

NOT FINAL – STILL OUT FOR CIRCUCLATION

February XX, 2010

Dear Senator/Representative:

We urge you to stand firm for comprehensive, meaningful health reform and to do whatever it takes to make the long overdue promise of health reform a reality for the millions of uninsured Americans, including many with HIV/AIDS, who desperately need it.

Both the Senate and House bills include reform measures that have long been priorities for the HIV community, such as expanding comprehensive Medicaid coverage to low income individuals; making prescription drugs affordable under Medicare Part D; regulating the private insurance market with new rules to prevent discrimination; and investing in prevention and public health. The final bill must include these and the many other reform components that have already won approval by both the Senate and the House, such as a regulated insurance exchange with generous subsidies for individuals who need it; comprehensive measures to address the medical and public health workforce crisis; and allowing AIDS Drug Assistance Program expenditures to count toward true out of pocket costs.

We support passage of the Senate bill as a vehicle for getting the job done as well as the use of the reconciliation process to enact health care reform that best meets the needs of all Americans. We also urge the adoption of the Early Treatment for HIV Act through this process. We strongly oppose efforts to craft a pared-down bill that only includes the most popular measures of reform without taking the bold steps necessary to transform our health system and ensure meaningful access to health care for people with HIV, those with other chronic conditions, and all uninsured Americans.

Failure to pass a comprehensive bill that expands Medicaid, creates an affordable and regulated individual and small group insurance marketplace, and enacts strong consumer protections will deny hundreds of thousands of people with HIV and others with chronic disease, access to the care they desperately need to stay alive. We are counting on Congress to work together and finalize meaningful health care reform legislation. We can't afford to abandon this vital effort.

For more information, please contact HHCAWG co-chairs Laura Hanen of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors at (202) 434-8091 or Robert Greenwald of the Treatment Access Expansion Project at (617) 390-2584.

Respectfully submitted,

[List in Formation}

1. ActionAIDS
2. A Family Affair
3. AIDS Action
4. AIDS Action Baltimore
5. AIDS Alliance for Faith and Health
6. AIDS Athens
7. AIDS Foundation of Chicago
8. AID Gwinnett
9. AIDS/HIV Health Alternatives
10. AIDS Project Los Angeles
11. AIDS Resource Council

12. AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition
13. Ali Forney Center
14. American Academy of HIV Medicine
15. Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc
16. Bailey House, Inc.
17. Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church
18. Black Mens Health Project
19. Carlos Brillembourg Architects
20. Center for Health Justice
21. CitiWide Harm Reduction
22. Clare Housing
23. Common Ground - the Westside HIV Community Center
24. Community Access National Network
25. Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
26. CUNY
27. Gay Men's Health Crisis
28. Georgia Equality
29. Get Screened Oakland
30. Global Justice Ministry of Metropolitan Community Churches
31. Grady Infectious Disease Program-Atlanta
32. Harlem United
33. HealthHIV
34. HealthReach Harm Reduction
35. HIV Medicine Association
36. HIVictorious, Inc.
37. Housing Works
38. International Community of Women Living with HIV
39. International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS
40. Konbit Kreyol Productions
41. Latino Commission on AIDS
42. Latino Community Services
43. LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES
44. LifeLinc
45. LIGHT Health & Wellness Comprehensive Services, Inc.
46. Living with HIV
47. Maine AIDS Alliance
48. Metropolitan Latino AIDS Coalition (MLAC)
49. Miami Valley Poz4Poz
50. More Light Presbyterians
51. National Action Network
52. National Coalition for LGBT Health
53. National Latino AIDS Action Network
54. Nebraska AIDS Project
55. Nightsweats & T-cells, Co
56. Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services, Inc. (OASIS)
57. Positive East Tennesseans
58. Project Inform
59. Proyecto Sol
60. Resource Center of Dallas
61. Riverfund, Inc.
62. Ryan White TGA Las Vegas Part A Council
63. San Francisco AIDS Foundation
64. SisterLove, Inc.
65. Sisters Together And Reaching Inc. (STAR)
66. South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS (SC-C2EA)
67. St. Anthony's Bread Mission Apostolate

68. St. Philip House, Inc.
69. START at Westminster
70. The AIDS Institute
71. The Denelisse LHCSA
72. The Riverside Church, New York, NY
73. TILTT, Inc. (Transgender Individuals Living Their Truth, Inc.)
74. Treatment Access Expansion Project
75. U.S. Positive Women's Network (PWN)
76. UCHAPS: the Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services
77. University of Maryland
78. Village Care of New York
79. Wateree AIDS Task Force
80. Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease (WORLD)