

March 2, 2006

# Support the HOPWA Program

## *Sign the letter to the Appropriations Committee*

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to ask that you join us in sending the attached letter to the Appropriations Committee urging a funding level of \$424 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year 2007. HOPWA, which enjoys wide bipartisan support, is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS.

Advances in treatment have offered new hope to people living with HIV/AIDS, but the costs associated with these treatments often force people to decide between essential medications and other necessities, such as housing. HOPWA answers this need, providing affordable housing to thousands of Americans battling AIDS. Last year HOPWA was funded at \$286 million, \$8 million below the FY04 level. The National AIDS Housing Coalition estimates that over \$3.5 billion is required to truly meet the housing needs of all those living with HIV/AIDS. In light of budget realities, however, we ask that you join us in requesting \$424 million to help those in the greatest need.

Locally controlled, HOPWA provides maximum flexibility to states and communities to design and implement strategies that respond to local housing needs. In FY 2006 alone, HOPWA funds will support the delivery of services to roughly 71,500 households in 122 jurisdictions across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Please join us in sending the following letter to the Appropriations Committee requesting that this program is adequately funded to meet the growing needs of those living with HIV and AIDS.

If you have any questions, or you would like to sign on to the letter, please contact Daniel Penchina of Rep. Nadler's staff, or Yara Lorenzo of Rep. Ros-Lehtinen's staff.

Sincerely,

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s/

s/

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress