

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2006

The Honorable Christopher Bond  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury,  
the Judiciary, HUD, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury,  
the Judiciary, HUD, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bond and Ranking Member Murray:

We are writing to request a funding level of at least \$424 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. As you know, the HOPWA program enjoys wide bipartisan support as the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS.

The growing demand for services requires a substantial increase this year. The National AIDS Housing Coalition estimates that more than \$3 billion is required to truly meet the housing needs of all those living with HIV/AIDS. In light of budget realities, however, we ask for \$424 million to help those in the greatest need.

Major strides have been made in treatment options for people living with HIV/AIDS, and with these advances, there is new hope for everyone touched by the AIDS epidemic. However, the cost of these new treatments can often force people to decide between essential medications and other necessities, such as housing. Individuals with HIV/AIDS must have stable housing to ensure access to and to benefit from complex drug treatments that often include special dietary restrictions. In addition, medications often must be refrigerated and taken on a rigid time schedule. Inadequate housing is not only a barrier to treatment, but also puts people with HIV/AIDS at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress and lack of medical care. Research demonstrates that up to sixty percent of all persons living with HIV/AIDS report a lifetime experience of homelessness or housing instability. HOPWA answers this need, successfully providing suitable, reasonably priced housing for thousands of Americans battling AIDS.

HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with AIDS and their families. It provides maximum flexibility to states and communities to implement strategies that respond to local housing needs and shortfalls. In addition, the administrative costs of the program are capped, ensuring the money goes directly to serving people with AIDS.

In FY 2006 alone, HOPWA funds will support the delivery of housing assistance to over 71,500 households in 122 jurisdictions across 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands through competitive and formula grants.

The HOPWA program offers thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families the safety and stability necessary to benefit from drug treatments that have contributed a dramatic reduction in AIDS mortality in this nation. We urge you to give the highest priority to an allocation of \$424 million for HOPWA in the FY2007 Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, HUD Appropriations bill so that this important program may continue to serve those in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate



The Honorable Gordon H. Smith  
United States Senate



The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka  
United States Senate




The Honorable Norm Coleman  
United States Senate



The Honorable Evan Bayh  
United States Senate



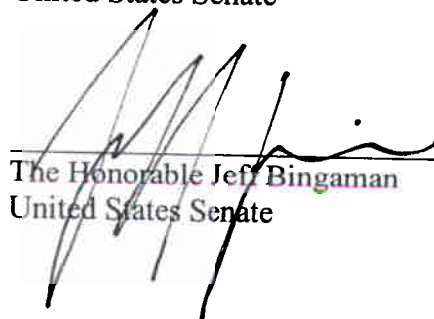
The Honorable Mike DeWine  
United States Senate



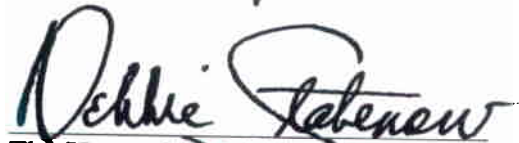
The Honorable Bill Nelson  
United States Senate



The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate





The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senate




The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate

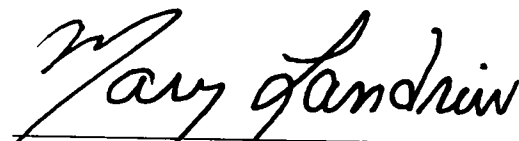
  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate

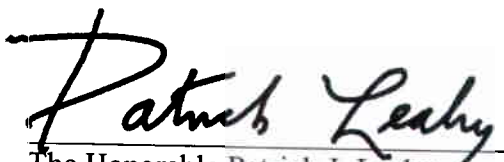
  
The Honorable Mark Dayton  
United States Senate

  
The Honorable Russell D. Feingold  
United States Senate

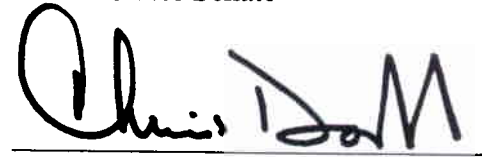
  
The Honorable James M. Jeffords  
United States Senate


  
The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senate

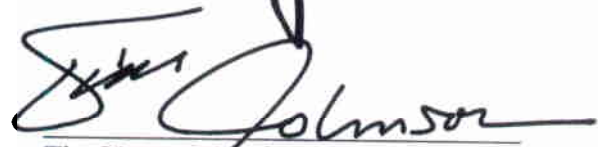
  
The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senate

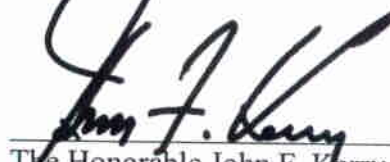
  
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate

  
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate

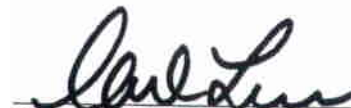
  
The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senate

  
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
United States Senate

  
The Honorable Tim Johnson  
United States Senate

  
The Honorable John F. Kerry  
United States Senate

  
The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg  
United States Senate

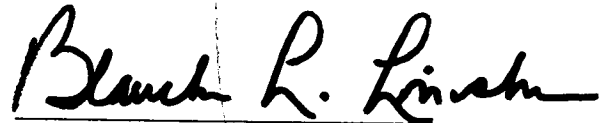
  
The Honorable Carl Levin  
United States Senate

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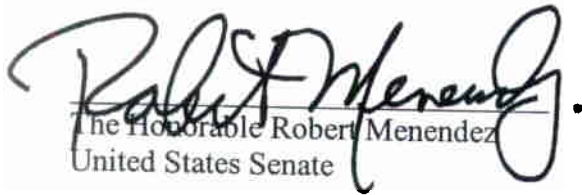
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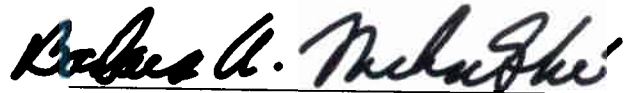
The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senate



The Honorable Blanche L. Lincoln  
United States Senate



The Honorable Robert Menendez  
United States Senate



The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senate



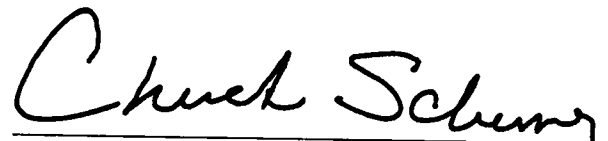
The Honorable Barack Obama  
United States Senate



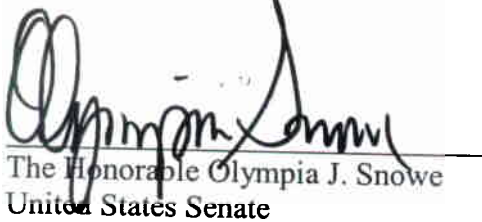
The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate



The Honorable Ken Salazar  
United States Senate



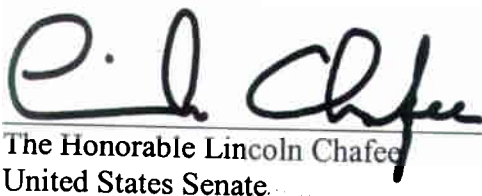
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate



The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senate



The Honorable Susan M. Collins  
United States Senate



The Honorable Lincoln Chafee  
United States Senate