

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 \$454 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year 2008. 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 HIV/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. Although the House passed the President's request of \$300 million for HOPWA for the current fiscal year, the program is level funded in the Joint Resolution at \$286 million -- \$8 million below the FY04 highwater mark of \$295 million. 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 \$454 million to help those in the greatest need and permit housing assistance to 100,000 households - far below actual need.

Locally controlled, HOPWA provides maximum flexibility to states and communities to design and implement strategies that respond to local housing needs. In FY 2007 alone, HOPWA funds will support the delivery of services to roughly 67,000 households in 122 jurisdictions across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Two additional jurisdictions are expected to become eligible during FY2008. 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 Jillian Youngblood of Rep. Nadler's staff at xxx - xxxx.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
/s

Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
/s

Member of Congress

Christopher S. Murphy
/s

Member of Congress