

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2007

## SUPPORT THE HOPWA PROGRAM

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to ask you to 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 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 offer 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. Ninety-one percent of those served by HOPWA earn a family income of less than \$1,000 per month. In FY2007 alone, HOPWA funds will support the delivery of housing assistance to over 67,000 households in 122 jurisdictions across 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Locally controlled, HOPWA provides maximum flexibility to states and communities to design and implement strategies that respond to local housing needs. Please join us in sending the following letter to the Appropriations Committee requesting that this program be 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 Donni Turner in Senator Durbin's office at 4-4316 or Jake Schumacher in Senator Smith's office at 8-1823 by May 4, 2007.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Gordon H. Smith  
United States Senator