

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2010

The Honorable John Olver
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2349 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Latham:

We are writing to request a funding level of at least \$410 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year 2011. As you know, the HOPWA program, which enjoys wide bipartisan support, is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states across the country with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS.

Despite consistent support from your committee in increasing HOPWA's annual appropriation, the growing demand for services requires an increase this year. The National AIDS Housing Coalition estimates that more than \$3.2 billion is required to provide housing support for every person living with HIV/AIDS who is eligible for HOPWA. In light of budget realities, however, we ask for \$410 million to help those in the greatest need.

While major strides have been made in treatment options for people living with HIV/AIDS, the cost of these new treatments can often force people to decide between essential medications and necessities such as housing. When individuals forgo HIV medication to pay for housing even one time, their treatment becomes less effective. The HOPWA program seeks to ensure that people living with HIV don't have to make that choice. Homeless or unstably housed HIV-infected persons also experience higher viral loads and more hospitalizations than those who are stably housed. Inadequate housing is not only a barrier to effective 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. This makes housing an essential tool in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

At any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans with HIV/AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. HOPWA answers this need by successfully providing suitable, reasonably-priced housing for thousands of Americans battling HIV. HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families with maximum flexibility to meet local needs. In addition, the administrative costs of the program are capped, ensuring the money goes directly to serving people with HIV/AIDS.

HOPWA funds will support the delivery of housing assistance to households across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia through competitive and formula grants. Unfortunately, the demand for housing accommodations for people living with HIV/AIDS continues to greatly outweigh the resources currently available.

The HOPWA program effectively offers thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families the safety and stability necessary to benefit from drug treatments that have contributed to a dramatic reduction in AIDS mortality across the nation. Therefore, we urge you to give the highest priority to an allocation of at least \$410 million for HOPWA in the FY11 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill so that this important program may continue to serve those in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Juana Madala

[Signature]

Eleanor Holman-Roberts

Markus H. Markov

[Signature]

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Margie K. Horro

[Signature]

Joe Courtney

[Signature]

[Signature]

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Juan C. Davis

Michael E. Capuano

Raul M. Grijalva

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Earl Blumhauer

Elijah E. Turnings

Ephraim

Howard L. Berman

Harold A. Wagner

Ann V. Gentry

Eivind L. Engel A

Oak E. Cillee

Rosad DeLano

John Russell

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Jerrold Nadler	Joseph Crowley
Eleanor Holmes Norton	Michael Michaud
Russ Carnahan	Eddie Bernice Johnson
Mazie Hirono	Chris Murphy
Joe Courtney	Jim Himes
Stephen Lynch	Al Green
P.2	
Susan Davis	Michael Capuano
Raul Grijalva	Pedro Pierluisi
Hank Johnson	Keith Ellison
Jim McDermott	Carol Shea-Porter
Bobby Scott	Rush Holt
Gwen Moore	Yvette Clarke
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Dennis Kucinich	Bill Delahunt
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Carolyn Maloney	Corrine Brown
Chaka Fattah	Jan Schakowsky
Maxine Waters	David Wu
Charles Rangel	Alcee Hastings
Earl Blumenauer	Elijah Cummings
Ed Towns	Howard Berman
Henry Waxman	Luis Gutierrez
Eliot Engel	Anthony Weiner
P.4	
Dale Kildee	Rosa Delauro
John Dingell	