

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 23, 2012

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing
and Urban Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing
and Urban Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

We request that you include \$335 million in funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program in the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. While the HIV/AIDS community, including the National AIDS Housing Coalition, has recommended a funding level of \$380 million, we urge the Committee to at least restore funding for this important and bipartisan program to the FY 2010 funding level of \$335 million. HOPWA is the only federal program that helps states and municipalities address the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

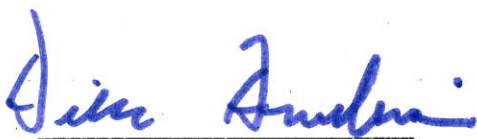
HOPWA has provided a national safety net of housing and support services for people battling HIV/AIDS since 1992. The program provides considerable flexibility to states and communities to respond to local housing needs and shortfalls. The administrative costs are capped, ensuring that program funds directly benefit people with HIV/AIDS. Most importantly, the program is highly effective. Ninety-four percent of people who receive housing assistance achieve stability according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Roughly half of the people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States will require some form of housing assistance during their illness. Demand for this assistance will only grow as people live longer with HIV/AIDS and many Americans face financial hardship in the wake of the economic recession.

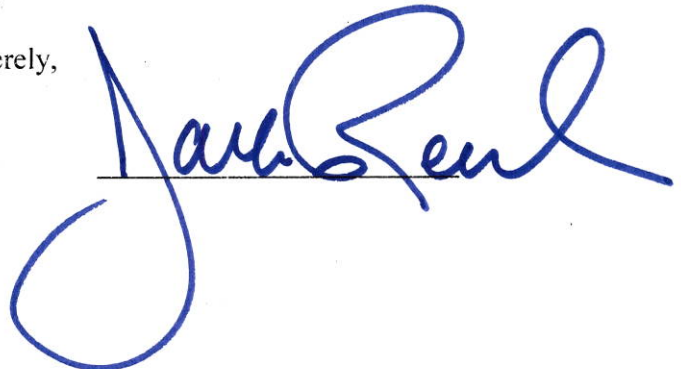
Research shows that stable housing leads to better health outcomes for those living with HIV/AIDS and can help prevent the spread of the virus. Stable housing helps people with HIV/AIDS access and commit to complex and sometimes debilitating treatment regimens. Without it, they are at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress, and lack of medical care. Housing interventions are a cost-saving and cost effective tool in ending the epidemic. Each new HIV prevented through more stable housing saves countless life years and over \$300,000 in lifetime medical costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jim Amodeo



Paul Riehl

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