



April 21, 2011

Thomas R. Frieden
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Frieden,

On behalf of the nearly 100 undersigned organizations, we respectfully request that you maintain the current level of funding for the Division of Viral Hepatitis by protecting it from the cuts established in HR 1473 (PL 112-10). Any funding reductions in hepatitis will jeopardize the successful implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) *Viral Hepatitis Action Plan* expected to be released on May 12. Further, we believe that program cuts will negatively impact the state health department Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinators and their programs, the Division's collaborative and integrative work across HHS and CDC, and its ongoing research that will better inform the federal government and stakeholders on viral hepatitis prevention and control. Finally, cutting funding to the Division will send the message that the federal government is abandoning its efforts to address hepatitis despite the President's FY2012 budget request for a \$5.7 million increase and despite the Division's professional judgment budget stating an estimated need of over \$300 million. Viral hepatitis has one of the largest disease burdens of over 5 million people in the U.S. impacted – roughly six times the number with HIV. Further it has the lowest diagnosis rates with 65-75 percent unaware of their chronic infection. Yet the Division operates on the smallest budget of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention at only \$19.3 million for a nationwide program.

Funding cuts will undermine urgently needed federal action during this time-limited and unprecedented era in viral hepatitis. An estimated 2-3 million baby boomers are currently living undiagnosed with chronic hepatitis C and will soon be aging onto Medicare; requiring more costly care and liver transplantation if they are not identified immediately. We have the tools to prevent the major causes of liver cancer: a hepatitis B vaccine and effective treatments that reduce disease progression, and new treatments that increase hepatitis C cure rates up to 75 percent coming to market in the very near future. We are facing a costly epidemic of liver disease and liver cancer caused by chronic hepatitis B and C that can be prevented given adequate funding.

We thank you for your leadership in addressing the viral hepatitis epidemics in the United States. We urge your support in protecting current funding for viral hepatitis that will help reduce liver disease, strengthen our public health infrastructure and service delivery especially for individuals at risk of and affected by multiple health problems, and prevent the devastating and expensive complications caused by viral hepatitis.

cc: Kevin Fenton, CDC NCHHSTP
John Ward, CDC DVH
Greg Millett, CDC
Amy Pulver, CDC

Sincerely,

AIDS Action Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts
Boston, MA

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Chicago, IL

AIDS United
Washington, DC

ALERT Health, Inc.
North Miami, FL

American Academy of HIV Medicine
Washington, DC

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
Alexandria, VA

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
Pensacola, FL

American Liver Foundation
New York, NY

AsianWeek Foundation
San Francisco, CA

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Washington, DC

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center
San Francisco, CA

Asian Center - Southeast Michigan
Southfield, MI

Asian Health Coalition
Chicago, IL

Asian Health Foundation
New Brunswick, NJ

Asian Liver Center at Stanford University
Palo Alto, CA

Asian Pacific Community in Action
Phoenix, AZ

Asian Pacific Health Foundation
San Diego, CA

Asian Pacific Liver Center at St. Vincent Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA

Asian Services In Action, Inc.
Cleveland, OH

Aspirations
Baton Rouge, LA

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Oakland, CA

B Free CEED Coalition
New York, NY

Bailey House, Inc
New York, NY

California Hepatitis Alliance
Sacramento, CA

Cascade AIDS Project
Portland, OR

Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.
Oregon City, OR

Center for Health Improvement
Sacramento, CA

CitiWide Harm Reduction
Bronx, NY

Coalition On Positive Health Empowerment. (COPE)
New York, NY

Community Access National Network
Washington, DC

Community Health Action of Staten Island
Staten Island, NY

Corporate Hepatitis Alliance
Bethlehem, PA

Digestive Disease National Coalition
Washington, DC

Georgia AIDS Coalition
Snellville, GA

The Greater Washington Viral Hepatitis Support Group
Silver Spring, MD

Harlem United Community AIDS Center
New York, NY

Harm Reduction Coalition
New York, NY

HealthHIV
Washington, DC

hepCmeditation project
San Francisco, CA

hepCmeditation project
Seattle, WA

Hep C Connection
Denver, CO

Hep Help of New Jersey Alliance, Inc.
Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership (HAP)
Washington, DC

Hepatitis B Foundation
Doylestown, PA

Hepatitis B Initiative of
Washington, DC

Hepatitis C Association
Scotch Plain, NJ

The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group, Inc.
New York, NY

H.E.A.L.S of the South, (Hepatitis Education Awareness and Liver Support)
Tallahassee, FL

Hepatitis Education Project
Seattle, WA

Hepatitis Foundation International
Silver Spring, MD

Hepatitis Outbreaks' National Organization for Reform (HONORreform)
Fremont, NE

HIVictorious, Inc.
Madison, WI

HIV Medicine Association
Arlington, VA

HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
Cranston, RI

Housing Works
Washington, DC

International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care
Washington, DC

International Community Health Services
Seattle, WA

Korean Community Services
New York, NY

LiverHope
Minnetonka, MN

Local Area Support For Hepatitis, Inc. (LASH)
Redding, CA

Los Angeles County Hepatitis B Coalition
Los Angeles, CA

Maryland Hepatitis Coalition
Baltimore, MD

Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation
Grand Rapids, MI

Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA)
Chicago, IL

Missouri Hepatitis C Alliance
Columbia, MO

NAMA-Recovery
New York, NY

National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
Washington, DC

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
Washington, DC

National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)
Silver Spring, MD

National Council of Asian and Pacific Islander Physicians
Washington, DC

National Health Care for the Homeless Council
Nashville, TN

National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)
Washington, DC

National Task Force on Hepatitis B: Focus on Asians and Pacific Islanders
San Francisco, CA

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
Rohnert Park, CA

New Mexico Hepatitis C Alliance
Albuquerque, NM

NYC Hepatitis B Coalition
New York, NY

NYC Hepatitis C Task Force
New York, NY

New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE)
Bronx, NY

NYU Medical Center Midtown Hepatitis C Support Group
New York City, NY

Office of Community Engagement and Cancer Disparities
University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chicago, IL

Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Columbus, OH

Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases (PKIDs)
Vancouver, WA

Project Inform
San Francisco, CA

REACH, Institutes for Behavior Resources
Baltimore, MD

Recovery 2000, Inc.
Chicago, IL

San Francisco Hep B Free
San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force
San Francisco, CA

Spears Foundation For Hepatitis C
Franklin, TN

St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction
Bronx, NY

Status C Unknown
Medford, NY

STOPHepC
Pelzer, SC

Tibotec Therapeutics
Titusville, NJ

The AIDS Institute
Tampa, FL

Treatment Action Group
New York, NY

Yet Inc.
New York, NY