

May 28, 2019

The Honorable Representative Nita Lowey
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Representative Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Representative Barbara Lee
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey, Congresswoman DeLauro, and Congresswoman Lee,

As members of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership Research Working Group, we write to convey our sincerest gratitude to your leadership and steadfast commitment to advancing HIV research and development through the fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations process, and soundly rejecting the cuts made to HIV research under the President's budget proposal. We were especially pleased to see an additional \$149 million to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) dedicated to HIV vaccine and cure research, \$6 million for the Centers for AIDS Research (CFARs) through the Federal HIV initiative, and were delighted to see Report language that "directs NIH to increase funding for HIV/AIDS research by at least the same percentage as the increase in NIH overall funding" at the Office of AIDS Research. We believe these funding increases and the directive in the Committee Report will have tremendous impact in advancing HIV/AIDS research at NIH.

As you know, U.S. government investment in HIV research and development in our renowned research institutions has played a leading role in improving the lives of people living with HIV (PLHIV) both in the U.S. and abroad. Despite the enormous significance of the scientific achievements made possible through U.S. government investment, we still have a long way to go to reach our goals. New and improved treatments are needed to ease adherence and avoid resistance. As life expectancy increases for PLHIV, we must also prioritize research on issues of HIV and aging and co-morbidities such as viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, and cancer. Exciting developments are on the horizon, but we are still far from achieving a vaccine or cure. Significant investments are needed to realize these aims, and your funding commitments for FY20 are important down payments on those investments that will ultimately make a tremendous difference in the lives of current and future generations living with and vulnerable to HIV.

We look forward to a world in which HIV is even more treatable, preventable and, ultimately, curable – and eventually to one in which we can end the epidemic through a robustly funded science-based agenda. Your commitment has brought us closer to that day, and we extend our thanks to you.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action Baltimore

The AIDS Institute

AIDS United

The American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM)

amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research

AVAC

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF)

Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)

HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)

Lynda Dee

NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors)

NMAC

Peter Staley

Treatment Action Group (TAG)