



Statement on the FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

May 2, 2017

The CAEAR Coalition is gratified that bipartisan congressional leadership finalized the FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, including stable funding for critical HIV/AIDS and other public health programs, leaving the Ryan White HIV Treatment Program largely intact. CAEAR is also gratified that funding to the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund was sustained to continue to support innovative service-delivery models to minority communities to reduce continued health disparities.

However, the CAEAR Coalition is concerned that \$4 million was cut from the Part C Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. This cut will reduce access to care for the 255,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS that receive medical care in Part C-funded community health centers and clinics each year. The \$5 million cut to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) programs is unfortunate at a time when sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise and increases in drug resistant strains threaten the U.S. public health.

The CAEAR Coalition is encouraged by the \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the \$21 million increase to recently reauthorized Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program to address shortfalls created by the new funding formula. These increases will allow jurisdictions to maintain existing, safe, and affordable, housing for low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

The CAEAR Coalition supports the decision to reject the proposed cuts in FY17 and our intention is to oppose the Administration's anticipated cuts to non-defense discretionary funding that would undermine both HIV-specific programs and those essential public health programs our communities rely on to support their overall health and wellness.

CAEAR Coalition remains committed to working closely with House and Senate appropriators and staff, and the Administration to inform them about the important and significant impact the Ryan White HIV Treatment Program continues to play in the lives of people living with HIV, and the role the models-of-care developed by the program continue to serve as best practices for improved health outcomes across the nation.

CAEAR Coalition

The Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition is a national membership organization which advocates for federal policy, legislation, regulations, and appropriations to meet the care, treatment, support and prevention needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the organizations that serve them, focusing on health care reform and the evolving role of the Ryan White Program. CAEAR Coalition's proactive national leadership is focused on the Ryan White Program as a central part of the nation's response to HIV/AIDS. CAEAR Coalition's members include Ryan White Program Part A, Part B, and Part C consumers, grantees, and providers as well as the Part F AIDS Education and Training Centers. Learn more about the CAEAR Coalition at www.caeear.org.