

HIV/AIDS Community

Deficit Reduction Principles

This is a critical moment in the fight to end the HIV pandemic. Scientific research findings unequivocally show that early access to treatment improves health outcomes for people with HIV and significantly reduces HIV transmission. The first-ever National HIV/AIDS Strategy provides a roadmap for reducing HIV infections, increasing access to care, and addressing health disparities. Cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and other programs that support HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment, research, housing and support services will set us back in the battle against HIV disease and leave the vision of ending the HIV pandemic out of reach.

Deficit reduction is an important federal priority, but it must not be achieved at the expense of low-income and vulnerable populations. The HIV/AIDS community urges Congress to apply the following principles to reducing the federal deficit:

Ensure a fair and balanced approach to deficit reduction that includes revenue increases.

Raising revenue is an essential part of a balanced approach to deficit reduction. Failure to include revenue increases will force harmful cuts to critical programs that will cost more in lives and dollars over the long-term.

Protect vulnerable populations and maintain the federal commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS through ongoing funding of essential prevention, care and treatment, research, housing and support services.

A key tenant of deficit reduction must be to do no harm to the most vulnerable, including people with or at risk of HIV/AIDS. Our nation's fiscal health will not be improved by limiting access to lifesaving prevention, care and treatment, housing and support services for the more than a million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States or the millions of people at risk for HIV. Without adequate HIV care and prevention programs, the number of new infections will escalate as will health care costs to treat those newly infected. It would be counterproductive to disable the prevention, care and treatment, research, housing and support services that are critical to ending the HIV epidemic.

Preserve the federal commitment to the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

Medicaid and Medicare are the two largest sources of HIV/AIDS care and treatment, providing coverage to approximately 40% and 20% of all people with HIV/AIDS in the United States respectively. Converting the federal contribution to the Medicaid program into a block grant, setting spending caps, or instituting a new federal matching formula will shift costs to the states without lowering overall costs, which will further restrict access to HIV care and prevention. The Medicaid expansion in 2014 will enable early and reliable access to HIV care and treatment for the first time for many people with HIV and must not be undermined by the deficit reduction process. And proposals to shift greater Medicare costs to beneficiaries or to reduce provider payments will leave lifesaving care and treatment out of reach for people with disabilities and seniors.

Do not jeopardize the health care reforms already underway.

Critical, ongoing health reforms emphasizing prevention and wellness, affordable coverage, and cost-effective and coordinated care must not be compromised. The 32 million Americans, including many people with HIV/AIDS, who will gain health care coverage under health care reform are counting on it.

This petition was circulated by the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition and the HIV Health Care Access Working Group of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership. Information available at www.federalaidspolicy.org.

HIV/AIDS Community Deficit Reduction Principles Signatories

ALASKA

HIV/AIDS Services for African Americans in Alaska

ALABAMA

AIDS Alabama

ARKANSAS

The Living Affected Corporation

ARIZONA

HIV/AIDS Law Project

CALIFORNIA

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

AIDS Project Los Angeles

BIENESTAR

CAL-PEP

Common Ground - the Westside HIV Community Center

Desert AIDS Project

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center

Marin AIDS Project

Pozabilities

Project Inform

San Francisco ADS Foundation

San Mateo County HIV Community Board

SF Brightworks

State Office of AIDA

U.S. Positive Women's Network

COLORADO

PWA Coalition Colorado

Southern Colorado AIDS Project

CONNECTICUT

Family Centers Inc.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advocates for Youth

AIDS Alliance for Children Youth & Families

AIDS United

American Academy of HIV Medicine

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

CANN-Community Access National Network

CAEAR Coalition

Community Education Group

HealthHIV

Metropolitan Latino AIDS Coalition (MLAC)

National AIDS Housing Coalition

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors

National Coalition for LGBT Health

National Coalition of STD Directors

National Minority AIDS Council

National Women and AIDS Collective (NWAC)

National Working Positives Coalition

Sexuality Information and Education Council
of the United States (SIECUS)

START at Westminster

The AIDS Institute

United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society

Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS)

DELAWARE

AIDS Delaware

Brandywine Counseling and Community Services

Christiana Care HIV Program

Delaware HIV Consortium

Gateway Foundation

Ministry of Caring

FLORIDA

Dab the AIDS Bear Project

Positively U

GEORGIA

Aniz Inc

Georgia Equality

HIV Dental Alliance

Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc.

IOWA

Community Hepatitis & HIV Advocates of Iowa Network

IDAHO

Idaho Hispanic Caucus Institute for Research & Education

ILLINIOS

AIDS Foundation of Chicago

CALOR- a division of Anixter Center

Chicago Women's AIDS Project

Health and Disability Advocates

HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA)

Join the Impact Chicago

LOUISIANA

Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network - LAAN

Shelter Resources, Inc. D.b.a. Belle Reve

Women with a Vision

MASSACHUSETTS

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC)

Treatment Access Expansion Project

MARYLAND

AIDS Action Baltimore
LifeLinc of Maryland
Moveable Feast
National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)

MICHIGAN

AIDS Partnership Michigan
HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan
Michigan Positive Action Coalition (MI-POZ)

MINNESOTA

Clare Housing
Minnesota AIDS Project

MISSISSIPPI

A Brave New Day
Winston County Voters League

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina AIDS Action Network
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
Western North Carolina AIDS Project

NEBRASKA

Nebraska AIDS Project

NEW JERSEY

African American Office of Gay Concerns
Horizon Health Center

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Hepatitis Alliance
AIDS Treatment Data Network

NEW YORK

AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
Bronx AIDS Services
CitiWide Harm Reduction
Community Health Action of Staten Island
Exponents
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Harlem United
Harm Reduction Coalition
HIV Law Project
Housing Works
Latino Commission on AIDS
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
New Concepts Community Support Services
Project Hospitality
Staten Island HIV Advocacy Network
Treatment Action Group
VillageCare
VOCAL-NY

OHIO

AIDS Resource Center Ohio
Community Impact, Inc
Miami Valley Positives for Positives

PENNSYLVANIA

ACT UP Philadelphia
ActionAIDS
AIDS Policy Project
Philadelphia FIGHT
Southwestern Pennsylvania AIDS Planning Coalition

SOUTH CAROLINA

A Family Affair
AID Upstate
Catawba Care
Lowcountry AIDS Services
Minority AIDS Council of Orangeburg, Bamberg, and Calhoun Counties Inc.
Roper St. Francis Ryan White Program
SC Hispanic OUTreach
SC HIV/AIDS Care Crisis Task Force
South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS
Wateree Aids Task Force

TENNESSEE

Channels of Love
Chattanooga CARES
Conductors
Friends For Life
Nashville Cares
Pozabilities
Reaching Out Knoxville
Street Works
Tennessee Association of People with AIDS
Tennessee AIDS Advocacy Network

TEXAS

Austin Harm Reduction Coalition
Legacy Community Health Services

VIRGINIA

Crater AIDS Action Program
HIV Medicine Association
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

WASHINGTON

AIDS Advocacy Task Force (AATF)
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Ti-chee Native AIDS Prevention Project

WEST VIRGINIA

South Central Educational Development, INC

WISCONSIN

HIVictorious