

February 22, 2010

Support the Minority AIDS Initiative

Deadline: Thursday, March 11, Close of Business.

List of Signers 2/25/10: Maxine Waters, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Madeleine Bordallo, Donna Christensen, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Bill Pascrell, Clarke, Ellison, Grijalva, Gutiérrez, Hank Johnson, McDermott, Gwen Moore, Norton, Rangel, Towns, Waxman, Wu.

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to join us in sending the attached letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations requesting \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2011.

Racial and ethnic minorities are severely and disproportionately impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans accounted for 51% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2007, although only 12% of the population is black. Hispanics accounted for 18% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses, although only 15% of the population is Hispanic. Asian Americans accounted for 1% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses, and American Indians/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders each accounted for up to 1%. Combined, minorities represented more than 70% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2007.

These statistics demonstrate the tremendous importance of the Minority AIDS Initiative. This critical initiative provides funds to communitybased organizations and health care providers to help them address the HIV/AIDS epidemic within the minority populations they serve. The Minority AIDS Initiative is designed to enable organizations and providers in minority communities to improve their capacity to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services. Thus, it fills gaps in prevention, testing, treatment, surveillance, infrastructure, outreach and education across communities of color.

Please join us in supporting an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2011. The letter is attached. If you have any questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact Kathleen Sengstock of Congresswoman Waters' staff at 52201.

Sincerely,

Maxine Waters

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Madeleine Bordallo

Donna Christensen

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

March __, 2010

The Honorable David Obey

Chairman

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations

2358 Rayburn Building

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations

1016 Longworth Building

Dear _____:

We write to request that you provide an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011. We also request that you state clearly the amounts designated for each agency in this initiative, either in the bill itself or the accompanying report language.

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We urge you to provide \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2011. We thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to working with you to expand programs for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in minority communities throughout the United States.

Sincerely,