

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations
2358 Rayburn Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

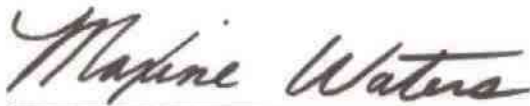
We are writing to request that you provide an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2009.

According to the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, racial and ethnic minorities represent 71% of new AIDS cases and 64% of Americans living with AIDS. African Americans account for 50% of new AIDS cases, although only 12% of the population is black. Hispanics account for 19% of new AIDS cases, although only 14% of the population is Hispanic. Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders account for 1% of new AIDS cases, and American Indians/Alaska Natives account for up to 1%. Clearly, racial and ethnic minorities shoulder a disproportionate burden of HIV and AIDS.

These statistics demonstrate the tremendous importance of the Minority AIDS Initiative. This critical initiative provides funds to community-based organizations, research institutions, minority-serving colleges and universities, health care organizations, state and local health departments, and correctional institutions 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, treatment, surveillance, infrastructure, outreach and education across communities of color.

We urge you to provide \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2009. 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,



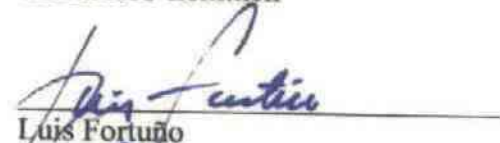
Maxine Waters



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Madeleine Bordallo



Luis Fortuño



Donna Christensen



Christopher Shays

Alicia E. Watson

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John Lewis

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Tony Baldoni

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Shela J. ...

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Leon Jennings

George Miller

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Eleanor H. Norton

Linda J. P. ~~Johnson~~

Danny R. Davis

Alfred Davis

Alfred Davis

Edward J. Mackey

Edward J. Mackey

Kath Elkin

Hank Johnson

Lois Capps

J. B. Ramey

Mark

Dina DeFette

Jan DeFette

Bryson

Magie K. Hirose

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Daniel Mee

Anthony Johnson

R. Linn

John Battaglia

Dr. V. Collins

Grace F. Napolitano

Betty Sutton

Brad Smith

Chris Van Helle

Kathy Carter

Madeline J. Boudreau

Wm. Lacy Clary

Minority AIDS Initiative letter
March 19, 2008
List of Signers

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Madeleine Bordallo
Donna Christensen

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Fortney "Pete" Stark
James P. McGovern
David Wu
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Chaka Fattah
Tammy Baldwin
Barbara Lee
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Maurice Hinchey

John Conyers
Bobby L. Rush
Albert R. Wynn
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Ruben Hinojosa
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Donald Payne
William Jefferson
Dale E. Kildee
Nydia Velázquez

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Alcee Hastings
Stephen F. Lynch
Hank Johnson
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Diana DeGette
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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