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October 6, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 731
Washington, DC 20510-1502

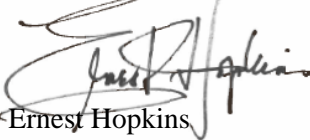
The Honorable Michael Enzi
Ranking Member, Committee on
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 379A
Washington, DC 20510-5004

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

I am writing on behalf of CAEAR Coalition to express the CAEAR Coalition's deep gratitude for your efforts to extend the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. We appreciate your leadership on HIV-related issues and thank you for your commitment to moving decisively and expeditiously to extend the Ryan White program.

As you know, a broad and representative array of HIV/AIDS advocates worked for a year to develop a set of AIDS community consensus recommendations for changes to the Ryan White Program. We are pleased to see many of those positions at the center of the legislation passed unanimously by the HELP Committee. We remain concerned that the continuity of care for individuals living in current Transitional Grant Areas may be disrupted without safeguards built into the legislation. We also continue to believe that the Part A formula awards should include the stop-loss resources provided in Fiscal Year 2009 as the beginning baseline for the new legislation. That being said, CAEAR Coalition supports the Senate legislation as a sound vehicle for securing the life-saving medical, pharmaceutical and supportive services provided to uninsured and underinsured people living with HIV/AIDS. As the process moves forward, you will have our support. We are eager to work with you and your colleagues in the Senate and in the House to ensure the continuity of care provided by Ryan White HIV/AIDS program.

Sincerely,



Ernest Hopkins,
Chair, Board of Directors
CAEAR Coalition

CC: The Honorable Christopher Dodd
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Bernie Sanders
The Honorable Sherrod Brown

P.O. Box 21361

Washington, DC 20009-1361

(202) 789-3565

fax: (202) 332-7087

www.caear.org

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