



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

August 28, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John H. Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Boehner:

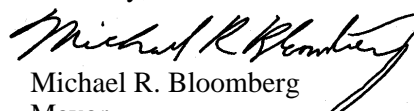
I write to request your support for a three year reauthorization of the *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006*, which sunsets on September 30, 2009. In order to maintain stability for persons living with HIV/AIDS, it is critical that the Ryan White Program be extended for an additional three years while the larger issues of reforming our nation's health care system and developing a national strategic plan for HIV prevention, care, and treatment are addressed.

The New York Eligible Metropolitan Area (NY EMA), which includes the five boroughs of New York City along with Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties, has the country's largest and most complex HIV/AIDS epidemic. With less than 3 percent of the U.S. population, the NY EMA is home to 14.4 percent of living AIDS cases. More than 100,000 people here are living with diagnosed HIV/AIDS and rely on the life-saving medications, health care, and other supportive services provided through the Ryan White program. Without prompt reauthorization, the NY EMA stands to lose more than \$110 million annually for treatment and services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

On behalf of New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS, I urge you to act immediately to extend the Ryan White Program for an additional three years, and to consider seriously the recommendations outlined in the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership's Ryan White Work Group document entitled "*HIV/AIDS Community Consensus on the Future of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act.*" We stand ready to assist you in whatever way possible to ensure that New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS receive the best possible treatment and services.

Thank you in advance for working to safeguard Ryan White funding in our region and across our nation.

Sincerely,


Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor