

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Tom Latham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development House  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

We write to request that the Committee once again support the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program in this year's Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. While the HIV/AIDS community, including the National AIDS Housing Coalition, has recommended a funding level of \$380 million, which would ensure that an additional 12,000 households in need receive life-saving housing support, we urge the Committee to at least restore funding for this important and bipartisan program at its FY10 funding level of \$335 million.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 48,100 people in the United States were newly infected with HIV in 2009. AIDS housing experts project that half of the 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. will need some form of housing assistance during their lifetime. The HOPWA program enjoys wide bipartisan support and is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states with resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS.

Research shows that stable housing leads to better health outcomes for those living with HIV. Inadequate or unstable housing is not only a barrier to effective treatment, but also puts people with HIV/AIDS at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress, and lack of medical care. Housing interventions are critical in our continued fight against HIV/AIDS, and even modest investments in stable housing programs saves federal and state tax dollars. For example, in 2009, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority found that by supporting stable housing efforts for homeless people with HIV, the city expenditures on these individuals dropped by 79 percent due to a decrease in avoidable crisis health services, including expensive emergency room visits.

HOPWA is a national safety net for people battling HIV/AIDS, providing competitive and formula grants to all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands since 1992. At any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans with HIV/AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with HIV/AIDS, and their families, with maximum flexibility to meet local needs. In addition, the administrative costs of the program are capped, ensuring the money goes directly to serving people with HIV/AIDS.

HOPWA remains an essential component in the array of programs needed to assure the availability of safe, affordable housing for low-income people with HIV/AIDS. Therefore, we urge the Committee to recommend funding for HOPWA at \$335 million in this year's bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler

Rosa L DeLauro

Carol Beckstein

Madeline J Bordallo

Jan Schakowsky

Melvin L. Watt

Marianne Waters

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Signers to the FY2013 HOPWA Letter  
March 19, 2012

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Melvin L. Watt	Albio Sires
Maxine Waters	Charles B. Rangel

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