TALKING POINTS
We need a commitment to people living with HIV. We need federal investment and support for programs that keep our communities healthy and well.

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
To strengthen our response to the COVID-19 epidemic, we must support programs that help people living with HIV get and stay healthy and continue investing in ending the HIV epidemic.

- **We need increased Ryan White Program funding.** This program has been key for helping people living with HIV stay connected to care and manage their health.

- **We cannot cut funding for supportive services programs** like HOPWA, which provides dedicated housing assistance for people living with HIV.

- **Congress must increase funding for programs that address intersecting issues,** including programs that address opioid use, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, and other diseases.

- **Ending the epidemic will require investment in policies that expand evidence-based responses,** complement other federal programs (including initiatives led by the Indian Health Service), and support community-based organizational efforts.

- **To prevent overdose deaths and transmission of HIV and hepatitis C,** Congress must remove restrictions on federal funding for syringe service programs.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
To end the HIV epidemic in the United States, we need to continue fighting for high-quality, affordable health care for all. Expanding meaningful access to HIV-related treatment will improve health and reduce transmission.

- **We must commit to securing access to the full range of antiretroviral therapy and pre-exposure prophylaxis,** and to addressing the social determinants of health and the multi-faceted barriers that impact health and wellbeing.

- **We need to strengthen health care coverage through programs like the Ryan White Program, Medicaid, and Medicare.** We need to protect access to the full range of antiretroviral therapies in all health insurance plans.

- **Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** can help prevent people without HIV from acquiring the virus, yet it remains drastically underutilized among communities of color, women, and people living in the South. **We need to support initiatives that increase awareness of and access to PrEP.**

- **We must address the structural barriers that impact health and wellbeing.** This includes supporting innovative care models that integrate housing, food and nutrition, and employment services.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The full enforcement of civil and human rights for all people will end the epidemic in the United States. Continued violations of these rights exacerbate disparities already seen in our communities and undermine efforts to achieve equality and social justice.

- For too long, people living with HIV, LGBTQ+ people, immigrant communities, Black and Latinx communities, individuals and families with low-incomes, and people with disabilities, among others, have faced discrimination and systemic inequities.

- Congress should promote the health and well-being of all people by addressing racism and institutional bias. This includes reforming the criminal justice system, ending HIV criminalization, and passing comprehensive immigration reform.

- We must ensure vulnerable communities have explicit protections against discrimination. We need clear protections for the LGBTQ+ community and to make sure programs designed to provide HIV care are accessible to people with disabilities.

- We need a dedicated focus on communities that face consistent underrepresentation in policy. We need to support the collection of sexual orientation and gender identity data, and to support communities, such as Black transgender women, who face increased violence on a daily basis.

SEXUAL WELLNESS

People of all ages need and deserve sexual health information that is comprehensive, high-quality, and evidence-based. This education is critical in preventing HIV, other sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancies.

- We must continue to support age-appropriate, medically-accurate programs that help schools implement sexual health education, like the Personal Responsibility Education Program.

- Aging people represent the majority of people living with HIV, yet often lack dedicated, age-specific prevention programming. Congress must designate people living with HIV as a “greatest social need” population, so access to crucial services expands for people aging with HIV.

- We need legislation that enables LGBTQ+-inclusive education and supports programs dedicated to marginalized young people, including young people of color, immigrant, LGBTQ+, and homeless youth, and youth in foster care and juvenile detention.

- We must eliminate funding for ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. These programs fail to address the needs of young people who are already sexually active, survivors of sexual abuse, and LGBTQ+ identifying participants.