

AIDSWATCH 2016

Summary of Legislative Asks



Once an unimaginable goal, we now have the knowledge and tools to **end AIDS in America.**

HIV, once an almost universally fatal disease, can now be managed as a chronic medical condition. New and improved medications, expanded health coverage options, and an updated understanding of the relationship between treatment, care, and prevention have created a new paradigm for the HIV epidemic in the United States—and the promise of ending new infections.

Fulfilling this promise, however, will require sound policy, adequate resources, and leadership. There must be collaboration—across the political aisle; between federal, state, and local governments; and among the public and private sectors.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Ryan White Program, and Ongoing Health Reforms

Health care access is important to increase the number of people living with HIV who are retained in care and to prevent future transmissions of HIV.

- Protect, fund, and ensure effective implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- Continue Investment in the Ryan White Program.
- Limit cost sharing for specialty medications and require insurers to display or link their full formularies on marketplace websites and include true out-of-pocket costs for prescriptions.
- Incentivize Medicaid expansion by supporting legislation that would allow states that expand Medicaid coverage now—and in the future—to receive the same three-year period of full federal support.

The Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Program

Housing is one of the greatest unmet needs of people living with HIV.

- Modernize the HOPWA funding formula to better align the program with today's epidemic by securing Senate passage of the House-passed H.R.3700, including the HOPWA modernization language.
- Increase funding for the HOPWA program by \$40 million for a total of \$375 million.

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

Comprehensive sex education is a critical tool in preventing HIV, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unintended pregnancies.

- Cosponsor H.R. 1706, the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act (REHYA).
- Authorize the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) beyond FY 2017.
- Support increased funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) and the CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH).
- Eliminate federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) programs by repealing the Title V state-grant “Abstinence Education” program and the Competitive AOUM grant program.

HIV Criminalization

HIV criminalization refers to the use of criminal law (often at the state level) to penalize alleged, perceived, or potential HIV exposure.

- Cosponsor the REPEAL HIV Discrimination ACT, H.R. 1586 and S. 2336.

Funding for the Federal Response to the HIV Epidemic

To stop the HIV epidemic and realize future cost savings, an increased investment today is needed now more than ever.

- Adequately fund efforts to expand access to HIV prevention, treatment, and research.
- Substantially increase funding by at least \$100 million for HIV/AIDS research at the National Institutes for Health (NIH) to ensure that vital HIV/AIDS research progress is not delayed.

AIDSWatch is organized by the Treatment Access Expansion Project (TAEP), United States People Living with HIV Caucus (HIV Caucus), & AIDS United, and made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors.

