

December 15, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

As organizations committed to effective, evidence-based strategies to fight against HIV/AIDS and improve public health, thank you for your outstanding leadership in putting science before politics to remove the ban on federal funding for needle and syringe exchange programs from the FY10 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill.

As you know, availability of federal funds for syringe exchange is a particularly urgent matter given that many states face budget woes and are cutting back health funding. When President Obama signs the FY10 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, local governments and agencies will have greater flexibility and be better equipped to combat HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C transmission in their communities.

We look forward to our continued work with you and other members of Congress, as well as the Administration, to implement effective HIV prevention programs, including syringe exchange, that prevent disease and deliver life-saving care to all Americans.

Mr. Chairman, your work has made this critical advance possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America)
Advocates for Youth
After Hours Project
AIDS Action
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alliance
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
AIDS Partnership Michigan
AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Civil Liberties Union
American Jewish World Service
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
American Social Health Association
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center

Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Schools of Public Health
AVAC
BIENESTAR
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Carepoint Adult Child and Family
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Colorado AIDS Project
Community Health Action of Staten Island
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
Community HIV/Hepatitis Advocates of Iowa Network (CHAIN)
Community Information Center, Inc.
Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition
Drug Policy Alliance
Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN)
FROST'D
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Global Business Coalition
Harlem United
Harm Reduction Coalition
Harm Reduction Sisters
Harvard Global Health & AIDS Coalition
Health and Life Promotion Research Consultancy (HELP)
Health GAP (Global Access Project)
HealthReach Harm Reduction
Hepatitis Education Project
HIPS
HIV Medicine Association
HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan
HIVictorious, Inc.
Housing Works
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Women's Health Coalition
Intersect Worldwide
Latino Commission on AIDS
LifeLinc
LIGHT Health and Wellness Comprehensive Services, Inc.
Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center
Maine AIDS Alliance
Maine HIV Advisory Committee
Michigan AIDS Coalition
Michigan Positive Action Coalition
Minnesota AIDS Project
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Council of Jewish Women
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
New Mexico Women's Justice Project

New York Harm Reduction Educators
North American Syringe Exchange Network
Northern Colorado AIDS Project
NYC AIDS Housing Network (NYCAHN)
Open Society Policy Center
Partnership for Prevention
PB&J Family Services, Inc.
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative
Physicians for Human Rights
Point Defiance AIDS Projects
PSI (Population Services International)
Positive Women's Network
Prevention Point Pittsburgh
Safe Horizon Streetwork
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction
START at Westminster
The AIDS Institute
The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)
The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS
The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)
The Praxis Project
Total Health Awareness Team
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
Village Care of New York
Voices of Community Advocates and Leaders (VOCAL)
Washington Heights CORNER Project
Who's Positive