

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to request that you provide an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017.

Racial and ethnic minorities continue to be severely and disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS in the United States. Minorities represent the majority of new HIV infections, people living with HIV/AIDS, and deaths among people with HIV/AIDS. African Americans account for 44% of new HIV infections, and Latinos account for 21%. Asian Americans account for about 2% of new infections; and American Indians/Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, and individuals of multiple races together account for an additional 2%. Indeed, the rate of new infections among African Americans is about 8 times that of whites, and the rate among Latinos is about 3 times that of whites.

The Minority AIDS Initiative is an indispensable tool in the effort to combat these unacceptable disparities. This critical initiative targets funds for HIV/AIDS prevention, screening, treatment, education, and outreach to minority communities heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS. The funds are provided to community-based organizations that serve minority communities to help them develop capacity and deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services. Consequently, the initiative fills gaps where the needs are the greatest and strengthens efforts to fight the epidemic nationwide.

We therefore urge you to provide \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2017. We thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to working with you to expand programs for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in minority communities throughout the United States.

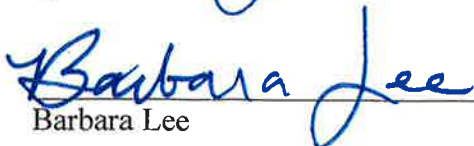
Sincerely,



Maxine Waters



Madeleine Z. Bordallo



Barbara Lee



Raúl M. Grijalva



Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Robin L. Kelly



Curt Clawson

Carmine Brown

Nydia J. Velazquez

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Dr. R. J. J.

T. J. J.

John Lewis

Lucy E. Plaskett

Ted W. L.

Paul J. J.

Harvey

Minority AIDS Initiative, FY 2017
List of Signatories
March 24, 2016

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