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 Bordallo  
Barbara Lee

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Robin L. Kelly  
Curt Clawson
Minority AIDS Initiative, FY 2017
List of Signatories
March 24, 2016

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Brad Ashford
Karen Bass
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Robert A. Brady
Corrine Brown
G. K. Butterfield
Michael E. Capuano
Tony Cárdenas
André Carson
Matt Cartwright
Kathy Castor
Judy Chu
David N. Cicilline
Yvette D. Clarke
Curt Clawson
Steve Cohen
John Conyers
Elijah E. Cummings
Danny K. Davis
Ted Deutch
Donna F. Edwards
Keith Ellison
Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah
Raúl M. Grijalva
Luis V. Gutierrez
Janice Hahn
Alcee L. Hastings
Sheila Jackson Lee
Hakeem Jeffries
Henry C. “Hank” Johnson
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Robin L. Kelly
Brenda L. Lawrence
Barbara Lee
Sander M. Levin
John Lewis
Ted W. Lieu
Ben Ray Luján
Sean Patrick Maloney
Jim McDermott
Jerry McNerney
Gregory Meeks
Gwen Moore
Jerrold Nadler
Donald Norcross
Elanor Holmes Norton
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Stacey E. Plaskett
Mark Pocan
Jared Polis
Charles B. Rangel
Cedric Richmond
Raul Ruiz
Bobby L. Rush
Linda T. Sánchez
Jan Schakowsky
David Scott
Terri A. Sewell
Albio Sires
Adam Smith
Jackie Speier
Mark Takano
Chris Van Hollen
Juan Vargas
Marc Veasey
Filemon Vela
Nydia M. Velázquez
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Maxine Waters
Peter Welch
Frederica S. Wilson
John Yarmuth