

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair Committee on Appropriations United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Employers Call on Congress to Fully Fund the FY2024 Domestic HIV Programs

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Murray, and Vice Chair Collins:

The undersigned organizations, representing a cross section of private sector organizations committed to ending the HIV epidemic in the United States, urge Congress to fully fund domestic HIV programs in the final FY 2024 appropriations packages.

We are hopeful that ending the HIV epidemic is possible in this country by increasing access to education, testing, prevention and treatment services. As employers, we do our part by offering comprehensive HIV health coverage and benefits to our employees and supporting local communities where we operate, but private sector efforts alone are insufficient without adequate federal funding.

The U.S. government has programs in place to expand each of these areas, including the [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) (EHE) initiative — an effort begun by the previous Administration and continued by the current Administration — to bring federal, state, and community agencies and partners together in a coordinated response to provide vital resources in the communities across the U.S. where the majority of new HIV infections occur.

The Senate has maintained funding for all domestic HIV programs and in one area even increased funding for the EHE initiative. However, the House of Representatives' proposed [FY24 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill \(HR 5894\)](#) includes \$767 million in cuts to domestic HIV prevention and treatment programs. This includes eliminating funding for the EHE initiative, among other HIV programs that reach communities of greatest need.

Eliminating funding for critical programs like the EHE initiative risks reversing the significant progress we've made. These programs are not just line items in a budget; they are lifelines for the communities we serve, and integral to our public health infrastructure.

Investing in HIV programs is also a strategic allocation of resources. By focusing efforts on reducing new HIV transmissions now, we mitigate the future financial burden on us as employers and our healthcare system overall, exemplifying prudent fiscal management and safeguarding the economic health of our nation.

A sustained investment in our nation's HIV response also reflects the enduring leadership the U.S. has shown in combating HIV, from groundbreaking research and medical innovation to establishing the game-changing U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program to combat the global HIV crisis.

We know that ending HIV requires commitment and bipartisan collaboration. We thank you for your careful consideration and for taking action to address this critically important public health issue.

Sincerely,

American Benefits Council
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Business Action to End HIV

With ally support from:
Business Group on Health
HR Policy Association