



NEWS RELEASE

Statement of Ernest Hopkins, Chair Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program in FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

CAEAR Coalition Applauds House Democratic Leadership for Delivering on Promise to Reprioritize Domestic HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment While Urging Greater Commitment to Community-based HIV Clinics and HIV Prevention

February 24, 2009

We are grateful to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Appropriations Committee Chair David Obey (D-WI) for providing increases to all components of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Program in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Upon assuming leadership of the House of Representatives, they committed to increasing federal support for HIV/AIDS treatment and care and yesterday they delivered on a substantive part of that promise.

In the FY 2010 appropriations process, CAEAR Coalition urges the committee to further prioritize and increase funding for all components of the Ryan White Program, including the critical services of Part C, which funds HIV-related care and treatment in health clinics in 49 states and three territories, and the AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs), which provide HIV training to health care providers across the country. The need for greater resources is clear. An estimated one-quarter of people living with HIV are unaware of their infection, 36 percent are diagnosed late in their illness, and 45 percent of those for whom antiretroviral treatment would likely be recommended are not receiving it.

We are disappointed that Congress provided no new funds for HIV prevention. This omission belies recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the annual rate of new HIV infections is 40 percent higher than previous estimates. We look to the Administration to increase HIV prevention efforts with new resources in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the FY 2010 budget.

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