



Media Advisory
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**Large Contingent of People Living with AIDS and Those Who Care for Them
To Urge Congress to Extend Ryan White Program at Hearing**

*As Nation Prepares for President Obama's Address on Health Care Reform,
Advocates from Maryland Will Deliver Over 1,600 Letters from Ryan White Program
Clients in Maryland About the Importance of the Program to Their Health*

WHAT: Over 75 advocates from Baltimore will demonstrate the importance of the Ryan White Program to people living with AIDS in Maryland by attending a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing where legislation to extend the program for three years will be discussed. They will also deliver to Congress over 1,600 letters written by people living with HIV/AIDS in Maryland who rely on services funded through the Ryan White Program.

WHO: The advocates are affiliated with LifeLinc, Sisters Together and Reaching, Park West Medical Center, New Vision House of Hope, the community advisory boards of HIV clinics at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, and the members of the Persons Living with AIDS Committee of the Greater Baltimore HIV Health Services Planning Council.

The hearing will include four invited panelists: Dr. Mary Wakefield, Administrator for the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA); Dr. Marcia Cross, Health Care Director for the Government Accountability Office (GAO); Julie Scofield, Executive Director of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors; and Dr. Donna Elaine Sweet, of the University of Kansas and Board Chair of the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

WHY: The Ryan White Program is set to expire on September 30, 2009. Congress has yet to act to extend this vital, life-saving legislation. This action by Maryland advocates is the latest effort taken by Ryan White Program clients and service providers to see that the legislation is extended for at least three years and is amended to include important changes recommended by over 280 organizations from 48 states and U.S. territories.

WHEN: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009,

WHERE: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2123

Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition is a national membership organization which advocates for federal appropriations, legislation, policy

and regulations to meet the care, treatment, support service and prevention needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the organizations that serve them. CAEAR Coalition's proactive national leadership is focused on the Ryan White Program as a central part of the nation's response to HIV/AIDS. CAEAR Coalition's members include Ryan White Program Part A, Part B, and Part C consumers, grantees, and providers, as well as the Part F AIDS Education and Training Centers.