October 20, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
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

Re: Imminent Threats to HIV Research: Organizational Sign-On Letter to Congress

The undersigned organizations write to urge Congress to address imminent threats to HIV research from the Administration. These threats are part of a broader political effort to undermine the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and congressionally appropriated taxpayer-funded science grants.

There are three interwoven and impending threats to the ground-breaking scientific research conducted by the NIH and the HIV clinical trial networks it supports through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). If not immediately addressed, these threats - individually and together - would have grave, long-lasting impact on decades of HIV and infectious diseases research, reducing access to effective, cost-efficient HIV prevention, care and treatment and undermining innovative efforts to end the HIV epidemic, including vital ongoing work to develop an accessible cure.

Major Delays in Funding Renewals at NIAID

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the HIV Clinical Trial Networks (CTNs) is months overdue, placing support for HIV research at major risk. This NOFO was forecasted by NIH to be released on August 25, 2026 for the CTNs. That date has long passed. Without a timely HHS-approved NOFO, NIAID cannot renew the agreements

that fund the HIV CTNs. This could result in trial participants being removed from trials before studies are completed, the loss of possible health benefits, and millions of dollars of wasted taxpayer funds. Impacted HIV clinical trials networks include Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally (adult trials), International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (trials for babies, children, adolescents, and pregnant women), HIV Prevention Trial Network (prevention trials),and the HVTN/Immune-Based HIV Prevention (immunology and vaccine trials).

Request for Congressional Action: Demand that HHS approve the overdue CTN NOFO for the ACTG, IMPAACT, HPTN, and HVTN immediately and direct NIH/NIAID to publish the approved CTN NOFO to the public without further delay to avoid harmful disruptions in clinical trials and the economic impacts of halting large-scale clinical trials and research centers across the country. To avoid disruption, HHS must approve the NOFO ***within weeks.***

Political Interference in Grantmaking

On September 18, 2026, the New York Times and Washington Post reported that Administration officials intended to release an Executive Order (EO) that would put the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in charge of reviewing NIH grant-making: This proposal is not allowable according to the bipartisan FY27 Continuing Resolution halting OMB from finalizing a proposed rule to permit political appointees to make federal grant decisions through December 11, 2026. We appreciated the statement and letter issued by Senator Collins urging the White House not to override the delay of the OMB proposed rule in the FY27 Continuing Resolution by issuing a new NIH EO that would politicize grant-making. Subsequent reporting stated that the White House would not release an NIH EO at this time. There remain serious concerns that the White House could release yet another NIH EO later this year.

Request for Congressional Action: Through passage of legislation, block the OMB proposed rule and any executive order, regulations, or guidance that would change NIH peer review of grants and put political appointees in charge of NIH grant making.

Diversion of NIAID Funds to the Department of Defense (DOD)

On September 3, 2026, Ranking Member DeLauro indicated that DOD has signed an interagency agreement with the NIH to redirect potentially billions of dollars from NIAID to DOD. This transfer could further threaten support for HIV biomedical research. The agreement would provide the DOD access to potentially billions of dollars that Congress appropriated to NIH for NIAID, NIH's lead infectious diseases institute. The lack of

transparency and apparent guardrails around this agreement raise concerns that the funding may be used for activities unrelated to biomedical research.

Request for Congressional Action: Weigh in against diverting funds from NIAID and request the release of a detailed accounting of how transferred funds would be used and which NIAID grants and programs are projected to lose funding as a result of the transfer. Ensure that NIH/NIAID funds are used only for their Congressionally appropriated biomedical research purpose. Additionally, include language in the final FY27 appropriations bill to safeguard NIAID research funding.

What's at stake:

- **Clinical trial participants would lose access to HIV treatment or prevention** before studies finish, breaking commitments to volunteers and eroding trust in science and among all communities vulnerable to HIV, including those already underserved.
- **Trained scientists, coordinators, and community liaisons would be lost**, **along with lab and trial infrastructure** built over the last five decades at universities and research institutions nationwide as well as international research partnerships.
- **Progress would stall or halt** on twice-yearly HIV prevention shots (Lenacapavir) and other promising long-acting HIV products, HIV Clinical Trial Network cure research, pediatric HIV and tuberculosis (TB) treatments and new and improved treatments for HIV co-infections and comorbidities which often cause greater illness and death.
- **HIV transmission, sickness, and deaths will increase**.
- **Research leading to the development of effective treatments for other serious and life-threatening conditions would be compromised**, including cancer, TB and viral hepatitis.
- **The U.S. would be unprepared for future outbreaks and emerging infectious diseases** without the capacity of the same HIV clinical trial network infrastructure that powered the scientific response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 139 undersigned organizations urge you to take the requested action steps to ensure that the massive scientific advances made possible by NIH-supported research will continue, and past investments are not wasted. Most urgently, HHS must publish the overdue CTN research NOFO as soon as possible. Only with further scientific progress will it be possible to dramatically reduce the impact of HIV, associated conditions and other infectious diseases in the United States and globally.

Sincerely,

27 UNIHTED

A Way Home America (AWHA)

Act Now: End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition

Aging and HIV Institute

AIDS Action Baltimore

AIDS Foundation Chicago

AIDS Service Foundation of Greater Kansas City

AIDS United

Alliance for Positive Change

American Academy of HIV Medicine

Amida Care

APLA Health

ASM

ASMDE-RELIEF RDC

Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Aurum Institute USA

AVAC

Beyond Our Status

Birthmark

CAMI Health

Cares of Southwest Michigan

Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

Center for Lived Futures

Central Oregon Medical Society

Changa Labs

Cheeky Charity

Coastside United Indivisible

Community Health Commission of Missouri

Community Health Project Los Angeles

Compass Community Center

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region

Crazy Love Africa

D-REK's Angels & Warriors Corp

Darby integrative Counseling

Daydream Sunshine Initiative

Disabled Parts

DOORWAYS

Equality California

Equitas Health

Fast-Track Cities Institute

Fast-Track Health

Five Horizons Health Services

Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Frontline Legal Services

Full Circle Recovery Center

GLIDE Foundation

Greater Baltimore HIV Health Services Planning Council

Health Justice

HealthHIV

HighV

HIV AIDS Alliance of Michigan

HIV Medicine Association

HIV+Aging Research Project-Palm Springs

Housing Works, Inc.

Howard Brown Health

Indivisible San Francisco (ISF)

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Junior Council of Chicago

Let's Erase the Stigma

LGBT Life Center

Lifetime Survivors Network

Lived Experience Advocate

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Multicutural AIDS Coalition

Narrative Power Institute

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC)

National Coalition for LGBTQ Health

National Coalition of STD Directors

National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC)

National Working Positive Coalition

Network of ARV USERS

NHAAN

NMAC

North Shore Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth (NAGLY)

NOVUS Health

NYC HVTN CAB

One Love Center for Health

Oregon Voices for Biomedical Research

P.A.C.T.A. INC.

PA-HIV Justice Alliance

PHILADELPHIA FIGHT

Positive Peers of Greater Minnesota

Positive People Network Inc

Positive Women's Network-USA

Poz Military and Veterans USA UNTL

POZabilities

PrEP in Black America

PrEP4All, Inc.

Prism Health North Texas

Project RED Paint, Inc

Projects Advancing Sexual Diverstiy

Public Citizen

Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Sexual Health Research at the University of Minnesota (SHRUM) Program

Silver State Equality

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY

Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction

SPUN fka COSIT

Sunburst Projects

Tanzania Network of Women living with HIV

Tedd Smith Consulting, LLC

The AIDS Institute

The Center in Asbury Park

The Reunion Project

The Tori Foundation Inc.

The Well Project

THP

TikaCo

Total Health Care

Transcanwork

Treatment Action Group (TAG)

TruEvolution

UBtheCURE

Vivent Health

West Virginia HIV Academic Mentoring Partnership

WOCRU

Yaya Por Vida

Frontier Science & Technology Research Foundation, Inc.

Partners In Health

RiseUpToHIV

American Academy of HIV Medicine Mountain Plains Chapter

The Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP)

Rooted Path Support

Project Vida

National Health Law Program

UCLA Graduate Students Association, Office of the External Vice President

Clinton Health Access Initiative

Stop TB USA

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

The Sero Project

Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

EQUIHEALTH BRIDGE AND RESEARCH ORGANISATION (EQHBRO)

Fenway Health

Harbor of Hope Refugee Support Initiative

San Francisco Bay CTU ACTG Community Advisory Board

Young Women For Sustainable Development Malawi

Women Unlimited Eswatini