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DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED TO CO-CHAIR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HIV/AIDS (PACHA)

Washington, DC – Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced today that he has asked The AIDS Institute’s Deputy Executive Director, Carl Schmid, to serve as co-chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). Azar made the announcement in a speech at the 2018 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment where he laid out a vision for our country “where the spread of HIV/AIDS has been effectively halted, because every American with HIV/AIDS is receiving treatment and every American at risk of HIV is engaged in the right prevention strategy.”

PACHA provides advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary regarding programs, policies, and research to promote effective treatment, prevention and cure of HIV disease and AIDS.

Schmid, who has been with The AIDS Institute for 15 years, leads the Institute’s federal policy work before the executive agencies and the Congress. He has been a leader in ensuring domestic HIV programs, including the Ryan White Program, CDC HIV prevention programs, and NIH AIDS Research, are based on sound public policy and fully funded. He is a trusted expert in health care financing systems, including Medicaid and Medicare, and led efforts to ensure that Affordable Care Act implementation meets the needs of people living with or at risk of HIV and hepatitis.

“I look forward to serving in this role in order to advance policies that support people living with or at risk of HIV, and work with the Administration to advance their efforts to end AIDS,” commented Schmid. “This Administration is making decisions that will impact the future of HIV in our country and around the world; I believe it is essential that we be at that table.”
“This is not a partisan issue, HIV continues to be a public health threat that must have the right leadership and resources necessary to end new infections and ensure access to quality prevention and treatment for everyone who needs it,” stated Michael Ruppal, Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. “We are proud to have Carl on our team and know that his leadership will greatly benefit the work of PACHA and the goals they establish.”

Schmid will co-chair PACHA with Washington State Secretary of Health John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH. PACHA will next meet on March 14-15, 2019 in Washington DC.

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The AIDS Institute is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes action for social change through public policy, research, advocacy and education.

For more information and to become involved, visit www.TheAIDSInstitute.org or write to us at Info@theaidsinstitute.org, and follow The AIDS Institute on Twitter @AIDSAdvocacy and Facebook at www.facebook.com/The-AIDS-Institute.