STATE OF THE UNION HIGHLIGHTS COMMITMENT TO ENDING HIV INITIATIVE

Ending the HIV Epidemic is Possible, But All Federal Policies Must Work Together to Achieve This Goal

Washington, DC — The second mention of ending the HIV epidemic in a State of the Union Address shows that the administration is focused on this laudable and achievable goal. In tonight’s speech, the President said “we will eradicate the AIDS epidemic in America by the end of the decade.” The announcement last year of the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative was followed by the formulation and roll out of the campaign, with the goal of reducing new cases of HIV by 90% in the next ten years. Congress funded the first year of the Initiative, and plans designed by communities across the country will be implemented this year.

Rachel Klein, Deputy Executive Director of The AIDS Institute offers the following statement in response to President Trump’s address:

“The AIDS Institute applauds and supports the administration’s call for ending the HIV epidemic in the next decade. The administration and Congress have demonstrated bipartisan commitment to the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative, and we will continue to work to ensure that the second year of this plan receives the necessary funding to ensure success.

However, the success of the Initiative depends not only on the additional, HIV-focused resources dedicated through the Initiative, but on the continued ability of people to gain access to health care through programs including Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act. Just last week, the administration released new proposals that
would put Medicaid coverage for adults who have or are at risk of HIV in jeopardy, and would shift more of the tremendous burden of out-of-pocket health care costs to people with individual health insurance plans. Attempts to dismantle the ACA, block grant Medicaid, shift more out-of-pocket costs to patients, and expand the "public charge" rule all run counter to the goal of ending the HIV epidemic. The AIDS Institute will continue to work against these policies and ensure that the effective healthcare systems are in place for the Initiative’s success. We will also encourage the administration to set a similar goal of eliminating viral hepatitis, which is preventable, treatable, and in the case of Hepatitis C, curable.”

###

The AIDS Institute is a national non-partisan, 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](http://www.TheAIDSInstitute.org) or write to us at [Info@theaidsinstitute.org](mailto:Info@theaidsinstitute.org), and follow The AIDS Institute on Twitter @AIDSAdvocacy and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/The-AIDS-Institute](http://www.facebook.com/The-AIDS-Institute)