March 7, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Vote “NO” on the American Health Care Act

Dear Chairman Brady, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Members Neal and Pallone:

The AIDS Institute, a national non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and protecting health care access for people living with HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other chronic and serious health conditions, is deeply concerned about the potential negative effects of the American Health Care Act, which would repeal many elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As your Committees mark up the proposed reconciliation bills, we ask you to consider our concerns outlined below and urge you to vote “NO” on these bills.

While we agree that improvements can be made to the ACA, including the Medicaid program and the Health Insurance Marketplace, repealing and replacing them with programs that will restrict coverage and offer fewer benefits will not help patients.

People with HIV and hepatitis depend on consistent access to medications and cannot risk losing access to their health coverage or a cut in services, not even for a single day.
The *American Health Care Act* reduces access to health care, reduces coverage, and reduces benefits. **People living with HIV, hepatitis, and other chronic and serious conditions cannot afford to go backwards by eliminating or destabilizing the health care that the ACA provides.**

Please vote “NO” on the proposed reconciliation bills to repeal the ACA.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Carl Schmid
Deputy Executive Director