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**The AIDS Institute Announces Promotion of Franklin Hood**

The AIDS Institute, a national non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and protecting healthcare access for people living with HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and other chronic and serious health conditions, today announces the promotion of Franklin Hood to Senior Policy Associate. He has primary responsibility over the organization’s viral hepatitis efforts.

“Frank has been a key part of our success, particularly in our recent advocacy to advance legislation on the infectious disease consequences of the opioid epidemic,” said Michael Ruppal, executive director of The AIDS Institute. “We are thrilled to have Frank as part of our team and lucky to have such a strong leader in the advocacy community. Frank will continue his focus on hepatitis C and its intersection with other social, economic, and health conditions. He will also continue to partner with other hepatitis advocates and the broader hepatitis community which will be enhanced with his recent appointment to the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) Steering Committee.”

Recently, Hood has been instrumental in creating legislation to address the spike in infectious diseases, including HIV and hepatitis C, caused by the opioid epidemic. He has also worked on the viral hepatitis advocacy community’s effort to secure an increase in federal funding for states and community based organizations to increase their viral hepatitis testing, prevention, education, and surveillance efforts. Additionally, he has worked to implement state Medicaid policies that would increase access to curative treatments for those living with hepatitis C.

Hood joined The AIDS Institute in July 2016 as a Policy Associate focusing on hepatitis C. Previously, he worked at the National Health Law Program on a national project assisting ACA enrollment specialists. He has also worked as a community, political, and union organizer. He has a master’s degree from The George Washington University and completed his undergraduate studies at Ball State University.

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*The AIDS Institute is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes action for social change through public policy, advocacy, research, 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.*