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THE AIDS INSTITUTE SUPPORTS 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GAY MEN’S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY “PRIDE IS POWERFUL, TESTING MAKES US STRONGER”

Washington, DC – The AIDS Institute proudly supports the 5th annual National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NGMHAAD) on September 27th, 2012. The AIDS Institute joins individuals and organizations from local, regional and national entities across the country as they participate in events that support the efforts of National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Michael Ruppal, Executive Director, The AIDS Institute states “We are proud to support National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The AIDS Institute recognizes that HIV among gay men is becoming more prevalent and we must continue to support strategic HIV prevention efforts that target this population.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all men who have sex with men (MSM) get tested for HIV at least once a year, and sexually active MSM might benefit from HIV testing every 3 to 6 months. One in five gay men in major U.S. cities is living with HIV and nearly half do not know their status.

“We applaud the Obama Administration for its supportive efforts and affirmation of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men who are most severely affected by HIV”, comments Carl Schmid, Deputy Executive Director, The AIDS Institute. He added, “While it is helpful to have a supportive government gay men also need to act and get tested for HIV. Knowing ones status is important both for the individual's health and for preventing new infections.”

HIV prevention requires much more than knowing the facts about the disease. Take action to protect yourself during sex, ask important questions, talk to your partner about your HIV status and above all embrace the benefits of routine HIV testing. Everyone has a role to play and each action, no matter how small, can make a big difference in your community. Pride is powerful, testing makes us stronger.
For more information on National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, please visit www.NGMHAAD.org.

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

For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: info@theaidsinstitute.org or www.TheAIDSInstitute.org.