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The AIDS Institute Congratulates President-Elect Biden

As Infectious Diseases Continue to Ravage Nation, Biden Has Challenges and Opportunities to Save Lives

Washington, DC – The AIDS Institute congratulates Former Vice President Joe Biden on his presumptive election as President of the United States. A record number of people cast their votes and engaged in the political process to achieve this outcome, despite the ongoing challenges posed by one of the deadliest pandemics of our lifetimes. When President-elect Biden takes office in January, he faces monumental challenges. We stand ready to work with the new administration to combat COVID-19, HIV and hepatitis, rebuild our decimated public health infrastructure, and dismantle the racist structures driving health disparities in the United States. Working together and with the strong leadership of this new administration, countless lives can be saved.

President-elect Biden will inherit multiple public health crises that must be immediately addressed. To date, over 235,000 people in the US have died from COVID-19, viral hepatitis cases are skyrocketing, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned of HIV outbreaks across the nation as public health resources have been diverted and constrained to address COVID-19. There are effective public health programs working to combat the spread of infectious disease, but they have been resource starved for years. President-elect Biden must implement a comprehensive national strategy to get the COVID-19 pandemic under control while rebuilding the public health infrastructure needed to eliminate HIV and viral hepatitis and to keep our nation safe from infectious diseases.

The AIDS Institute thanks President-elect Biden for his campaign commitment to aggressively work to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. We look forward to working with his administration and with Congress to build on and expand existing efforts to end HIV. To achieve
that lofty goal, significantly greater resources will be required as well as leadership dedicated to ensuring that these plans are responsive to the needs of people living with and at risk of HIV.

These are only a few of the many urgent issues requiring immediate attention from the new administration and Congress. They will also need to enact economic stimulus packages to prevent impending draconian state budget cuts; supplemental social supports to help the millions of people experiencing economic devastation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and strengthen our nation’s health insurance system to ensure that patients can afford the care they need. We hope that new leadership, new ideas, and a renewed sense of urgency will result in policies that truly protect the health of this nation at such a consequential moment.

We congratulate Mr. Biden on his win, and wish him success. Now it is time for us all to get to work.

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

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