October 28, 2015

Subject: VOTE “YES” TO THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015

Dear Representative:

The AIDS Institute urges you to vote “YES” to approve the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). This deal restores vital funding to both defense and non-defense discretionary spending for both FY2016 and FY2017, as well as ensures the United States will not default on its loans by lifting the debt ceiling until March 2017.

At a time when there are 1.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., and 50,000 new HIV infections annually, we are pleased to see that Congress and the Administration were able to come together on a bipartisan basis and lift the harmful budget caps so that we can ensure adequate funding for domestic HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs across the federal government.

If Congress fails to pass the BBA, we can expect to see extremely harmful cuts as proposed in the House and Senate FY2016 appropriations bills for several HIV/AIDS programs. In a previous letter to Congress by the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition, and signed by 159 organizations, we outline just how severe the proposed cuts to HIV/AIDS programs would be. Namely, the proposed appropriations bills would eliminate funding to the HHS Secretary’s Minority AIDS Initiative Fund and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Special Projects of National Significance, and cut funding to CDC’s Division of STD Prevention and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative.

We thank you for your continued leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS and urge you to vote “YES” on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Schmid II
Deputy Executive Director