September 19, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  Minority Leader  
United States Senate  United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510  

The Honorable John Boehner  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515  

Re: Impact of Sequestration on Domestic HIV/AIDS Programs

Dear Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, and Leaders McConnell and Pelosi:

On January 2, 2013, automatic spending cuts to federal programs totaling $109 billion will occur unless Congress and the President agree to alternative options. These cuts, which are on top of some previous year funding reductions, and only represent the first year of cuts that will total $984 billion over nine years, would have devastating impacts on how our country confronts HIV/AIDS in the United States. With 50,000 new infections each year and a record 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS, with only 25 percent of them with a suppressed viral load, our nation cannot afford to turn its back on addressing the domestic HIV/AIDS crisis.

It is imperative that alternatives to sequestration be identified and agreed upon by the Congress and the President so that these drastic cuts will not automatically occur. Detailed below is how a cut of 8.2 percent would decimate in just the first year a few of the discretionary programs that either people with HIV/AIDS depend upon for their care and treatment, or which work to prevent future HIV infections. Based on a calculation using FY12 spending levels, a total of $538 million would be cut from four HIV/AIDS programs in just the first year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>1ST YEAR CUT</th>
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<tr>
<td>CDC HIV Prevention</td>
<td>-$64 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program</td>
<td>-$196 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>[AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)]</td>
<td>[-$77 million]</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIH AIDS Research</td>
<td>-$251 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)</td>
<td>-$27 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>-$538 million</td>
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1705 DeSales Street, Suite 700, NW, Washington, DC 20036- 202 835 8373 - fax 202 835 8368  
17 Davis Blvd. Suite 403, Tampa, FL 33606 - 813 258 5929 – fax 813 258 5939  
www.theaidsinstitute.org
The cut to ADAP could translate into approximately 9,400 patients losing access to their medications.

In addition to those listed above, people with HIV/AIDS, many of whom are very poor, depend on other discretionary and non-discretionary programs to keep them healthy that would be impacted by sequestration.

We urge you to find a balanced solution to our Nation’s fiscal situation. We understand there are serious budget concerns, but we also know that HIV/AIDS is an infectious disease that must be addressed by public health and our federal government must protect our Nation’s most vulnerable, including people living with HIV/AIDS.

The AIDS Institute appreciates your continued support of these critically important public health issues, and trusts that you will work to find a practical solution so that these valuable programs will be able to continue to work for the American people.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Michael Ruppal at (813) 258-5929 or Carl Schmid at (202) 462-3042.

Thank you very much.

Michael Ruppal  
Executive Director  
MRuppal@theaidsinstitute.org

Carl E. Schmid II  
Deputy Executive Director  
CSchmid@theaidsinstitute.org

cc:  Members, United States Senate and House of Representatives