



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

September 19, 2012

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

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

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
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.**

PROGRAM	1ST YEAR CUT
CDC HIV Prevention	-\$64 million
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	-\$196 million
[AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)]	[-\$77 million]
NIH AIDS Research	-\$251 million
Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)	-\$27 million
TOTAL	-\$538 million

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 to you 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.



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cc: Members, United States Senate and House of Representatives