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Media Contact: Kim Treanor: (202) 835-8373 ktreanor@theaidsinstitute.org

PRESIDENT’S BUDGET CALLS FOR $291 MILLION FOR NEW INITIATIVE TO END HIV IN THE UNITED STATES

The AIDS Institute Urges Congress & President to Work Together to Pass Responsible Budget that Rejects Reckless Budget Cuts

Washington, DC - The AIDS Institute applauds the inclusion of $291 million in new funding in President Trump’s 2020 budget request to begin work on a new historic initiative, “Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.” The bold plan, announced during the State of the Union, is a response to the HIV community’s advocacy efforts for a commitment at the highest levels of our government to invest the funds and take the actions necessary to end the HIV epidemic. While there is no cure or vaccine for HIV, we now have the science that proves with increased HIV treatment, which causes the virus to be suppressed, coupled with enhanced prevention efforts, including PrEP, we can dramatically bend the curve of new infections over time.

“While the Trump budget includes several budget cuts that we cannot support, ending HIV is something we can all support,” commented Carl Schmid, Deputy Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. “This opportunity is too important to squander. Now is the time for Congress to work together and invest the necessary resources to end HIV once and for all.” Schmid is also co-chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

In addition to funding ongoing domestic HIV programs, the President’s budget calls for $140 million in new HIV funding for the CDC and $70 million for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, along with $50 million for a new program for HRSA’s community health centers to provide PrEP, a drug that prevents HIV, to those at risk of HIV. The Indian Health
Service is slated to receive $25 million, while the NIH’s regional Centers for AIDS Research will receive $6 million.

Additionally, the President’s budget includes $58 million to address the infectious disease consequences of the opioid epidemic, which has led to a spike in hepatitis C and HIV in certain parts of the country.

Recent data from the CDC has shown that progress in the fight against HIV has stalled, plateauing at about 39,000 new infections per year. The administration’s plan builds upon the existing HIV response and infrastructure, and ramps up increased diagnosis, treatment and prevention efforts in a targeted manner. The Plan calls for a 75 percent reduction of new HIV infections in five years, and a 90 percent reduction in 10 years.

“These goals will not be accomplished in one year and funding this initiative will require a long-term investment, but it is an investment we must make”, commented Michael Ruppal, Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. “Not only will it save people’s lives, but it will save money in the long run with saved medical costs. We urge Congress to approve this vital funding and set the nation down the path toward ending new HIV infections in the United States.”

While The AIDS Institute has not fully reviewed the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 proposed budget, there are reports of massive cuts to many programs that people living with HIV rely on and are necessary to help end HIV. We will work with our colleagues and the Congress to ensure these cuts are not realized, and a budget can be adopted at the necessary funding levels to fund the end the HIV epidemic plan and the many other programs people with HIV rely on.