TRUMP BUDGET CUTS DOMESTIC AIDS PROGRAMS
Lacks Adequate Funding to Address Opioid Epidemic & Infectious Diseases

Washington, DC - President Donald Trump has proposed again to cut many domestic HIV programs while providing no increases for CDC's hepatitis prevention programs despite the growing number of hepatitis C infections due to injection drug use associated with the opioid crisis.

In the Fiscal Year 2019 budget request, the President is proposing to cut the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program by $58 million, CDC's HIV prevention programs by $40 million, and AIDS Housing programs by $26 million. Despite a nearly 300 percent increase in the number of new hepatitis C cases between 2010 and 2015, the budget maintains funding for CDC viral hepatitis programs at only $34 million. The AIDS Institute is requesting an increase of $100 million in order to allow the CDC to implement comprehensive state and local health department and community-based opioid and infectious disease prevention services and programs. While the budget does propose significant funding increases to address the opioid epidemic, it is not clear that any of those funds would be devoted to the associated rising number of infectious diseases.

"Congress has soundly rejected these proposed cuts in the past and we trust they will do so again," commented Carl Schmid, Deputy Executive Director, The AIDS Institute. "Additionally, since Congress has yet to finalize the Fiscal Year 2018 spending bill, we continue to urge them to increase CDC viral hepatitis programs by $100 million now to address the rapid rise in new viral hepatitis, HIV and STDs associated with injection drug use. Jurisdictions cannot wait another year; they need the assistance now."

In a positive development, a new $40 million CDC demonstration project program has been proposed. The program would focus efforts in select states/jurisdictions at high-risk for infectious disease, including those with high rates of opioid-related...
transmission. This new initiative will jointly support efforts to eliminate HIV transmission, viral hepatitis, STDs and TB. Unfortunately, in order to fund this new initiative, the President is proposing to cut CDC's HIV prevention programs.

The AIDS Institute is awaiting the release of additional budget details and will issue a revised release when that information is available.

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**THE AIDS INSTITUTE**

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

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