HIV Health Care Access Working Group

March 18, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

RE: Vote “Yes” for Comprehensive Health Reform

Dear Representative:

We urge you to stand firm for comprehensive, meaningful health reform and vote “yes” to make the long overdue promise of health reform a reality for the millions of uninsured Americans, including many with HIV/AIDS, who desperately need it.

The bill includes reform measures that have long been priorities for the HIV community, such as expanding comprehensive Medicaid coverage to low income individuals; making prescription drugs affordable under Medicare Part D; regulating the private insurance market with new rules to prevent discrimination; and investing in prevention and public health. The final bill must include these and the many other reform components that have already won approval by both the Senate and the House, such as a regulated insurance exchange with generous subsidies for individuals who need it; comprehensive measures to address the medical and public health workforce crisis; and allowing AIDS Drug Assistance Program expenditures to count toward true out of pocket costs.

Failure to pass a comprehensive bill that expands Medicaid, creates an affordable and regulated individual and small group insurance marketplace, and enacts strong consumer protections will deny hundreds of thousands of people with HIV and others with chronic disease, access to the care they desperately need to stay alive. We are counting on you to finalize meaningful health care reform legislation. We can’t afford to abandon this vital effort.

For more information, please contact HHCAWG co-chairs Laura Hanen of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors at (202) 434-8091 or Robert Greenwald of the Treatment Access Expansion Project at (617) 390-2584.

Respectfully submitted by the following organizations,

1. A Brave New Day
2. A Family Affair
3. Absolute Care Medical Center & Pharmacy
4. Action Cycling Atlanta- AIDS Vaccine 200
5. ActionAIDS
6. ACTNMI
7. Adult Well-Being Services
8. AID Atlanta
9. AID Gwinnett
10. AIDS Action
11. AIDS Action Baltimore
12. AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
13. AIDS Alliance for Faith and Health
14. AIDS Athens
15. AIDS Community Alliance of South Central PA
16. AIDS Foundation of Chicago
17. AIDS Health Project
18. AIDS Project Los Angeles
19. AIDS Project New Haven
20. AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
21. AIDS Resource Council
22. AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
23. AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition
24. AIDS Treatment Data Network
25. AIDS/HIV Health Alternatives
26. Ali Forney Center
27. Alliance Of New Mexico
28. Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS (ALPHA)
29. American Academy of HIV Medicine
30. ANIZ, Inc.
31. APC Community Services
32. ARMS Clinic, Children's Medical Center Dallas
33. Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc
34. Bailey House, Inc.
35. Being Alive
36. Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church
37. Black AIDS Task Force
38. Black Mens Health Project
39. Black Women’s Health Imperative
40. Brighter Beginnings
41. Bronx AIDS Services
42. Brown University AIDS Program
43. Cagas TGA
44. Campaign To End AIDS/Kansas City
45. Cancer and AIDS Research Enabler
46. Carlos Brillem Bourg Architects
47. Cascade AIDS Project
48. Center for Health Justice
49. Center for Health Policy and Innovation
50. Central City AIDS Network, Inc.
51. Central Ohio HIV Planning Alliance
52. Christian Partnerships, Inc.
53. Citlaltepetl Health Reduction
54. Clare Housing
55. Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR)
56. Common Ground - the Westside HIV Community Center
57. Community Access National Network
58. Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
59. Community Information Center
60. Cope Community Services
61. Copperbelt Health Education Project
62. Core Center RMR
63. Corporacion La Fondita De Jesus
64. CWC Consultants
65. DropBidMurphys
66. Eastern Nassau
67. Exponents ARRIVE
68. Families First of Palm Beach County
69. Family Treatment Center
70. Fan Free Clinic
71. Fighting Drug Abuse & HIV/AIDS in Kenya (FIDAK)
72. First Afrikan Church HIV/AIDS Initiative
73. Gay Employees of Macro
74. Gay Men’s Health Crisis
75. Georgia Equality
76. Georgia Rural Urban Summit
77. Get Screened Oakland
78. Global Justice Ministry of Metropolitan Community Churches
79. Grady Infectious Disease Program
80. Harlem United
81. Health and Disability Advocates
82. HealthHIV