The undersigned organizations are writing to urge the Administration to uphold its historic commitment to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by re-affirming and protecting funding of HIV/AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the FY2015 appropriations process and beyond.

We were disappointed to see a challenge to the level of funding allocated to HIV research by an NIH leader during a House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations hearing on Autism Spectrum Disorders that took place on May 20, 2014.

We urge you to reinforce to the leadership and staff of the NIH Institutes and Centers the Administration's commitment to the HIV research budget at NIH. We additionally suggest restraint when making direct comparisons regarding funding between HIV/AIDS and non-infectious health conditions; communicable diseases represent a much greater public health threat and thus merit attention and funding commensurate with that greater level of threat.

The investment in HIV research that is spread across the Institutes and Centers has yielded extensive benefits for many other conditions including: aging, cancer, immunosuppression and auto-immune disorders, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis, viral hepatitis, and influenza, among others. During this time of federal fiscal austerity, we continue to advocate for a robust investment in NIH so that the potential benefits of the lifesaving research being conducted across NIH can be fully realized for all Americans.

The HIV-related research stands to benefit 1.1 million Americans and 35 million people globally living with HIV infection and holds the promise for an AIDS-free future for generations to come. The United States must not back down from its historic global leadership role in confronting and pressing for an end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Respectfully Submitted,

AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
Community Letter to Secretary Sebelius, OMB Director Burwell and Director Collins
May 29, 2014
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AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Psychological Association
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention
Bienestar Human Services
Black AIDS Institute
Cascade AIDS Project
Christie’s Place
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Fenway Health
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Harlem United
Hepatitis Education Project
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
Howard Brown Health Center
International Rectal Microbicide Advocates
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
Global Center for Health Policy
Latinos Salud
Lifelong
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Metro TeenAIDS
Minnesota AIDS Project
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Minority AIDS Council
Project Inform
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Southern AIDS Coalition
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)
START at Westminster
The AIDS Institute
Treatment Access Expansion Project
Treatment Action Group
VillageCare

CC: Douglas Brooks, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
Ron Valdiserri, MD, Director, HHS Office on HIV and Infectious Diseases
Anthony Fauci, MD, Director, National Institute on Allergies and Infectious Diseases
Jack Whitecarver, PhD, Director, NIH Office of AIDS Research

1 From the hearing transcript, the NIH official stated that: “this is why I keep harping on the -- this being the wrong rabbit going down the wrong hole is that when you compare autism to AIDS, it’s really quite extraordinary. So as you said, Chairman Mica that $160 million is being spent in 2012, it’s a little bit more than, but that’s basically the autism figures. And you also, both of you cited the enormous public health cost and economic cost. AIDS affects about a million people in the United States -- do you want to guess what AIDS budget is for research at the NIH? It’s $3 billion. We’re talking about $160 million for a disorder that affects at least as many children as are affected by -- as affected with AIDS in the entire country.” Also captured on video at: http://youtu.be/ZNAvUdUxAYw?t=51m41s.