June 16, 2025

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Wommack Chair,
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Clyburn
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Hyde-Smith, Ranking Member Gillibrand, Chairman Womack, and Ranking Member Clyburn:

We, the undersigned ___ national, state, local organizations, and concerned citizens write to express our strong support to fund the Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program at a funding level of **at least $600 million** of base funding for the HOPWA program. We adamantly urge Congress to keep the HOPWA program within the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing at HUD and within the parameters of the program set forth in the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA) legislation passed in 2016. The HOPWA program provides emergency, short-term, and permanent housing solutions in both rural and urban areas, ensuring that low-income people with HIV and other comorbidities are safely housed.

NHAHC and the CDC published research in *AIDS Journal*, 'Needs for shelter or housing assistance among people with diagnosed HIV by jurisdiction: United States, 2015–2020', which found that nationally, 1 in 4 (27.7%) people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) had shelter or housing service needs and among those who needed housing services 40.4% did not receive any assistance.

For over 30 years, HOPWA has provided housing and supportive services for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. The program provides competitive and formula grants to states and cities, ensuring that rural and urban areas have access to life-saving housing and supportive services.

HOPWA is critical because housing remains the greatest unmet need for people living with HIV/AIDS. Stable housing leads to better health outcomes for those living with HIV. For people living with HIV, a better health outcome means viral suppression. An individual who is virally suppressed cannot transmit the virus to another person, thereby ensuring the health of their entire community.

HIV does not affect all Americans equally, making the need for adequate HOPWA funding in certain communities more important than ever. 92% of HOPWA funds serve extremely-low to very-low-income households. During the last program year, 46% of HOPWA funds assisted individuals in the 51+ age range. Currently, over half of adults living with HIV are over the age of 50, and by 2030 it is estimated that over 70% of those living with HIV in the United States will be 50+. Along with 9% of HOPWA's homeless beneficiaries were veterans, an increase of 3% from the previous year, and another 52% were considered chronically homeless, which continues to increase each year. The program placed 19,777 new individuals into housing while providing housing for 45,740 households, provided 106,611 individuals with supportive services. According to HUD, the HOPWA program leveraged $1,100,472,465.75 from state and local jurisdictions in the last program year.

The HOPWA program reduces homelessness and HIV prevalence while bolstering local economies and neighborhoods. We implore you to fund HOPWA at least at $600 million for FY26.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Rev. Lauren Banks, Executive Director, at the National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition (Lauren@nhahc.org).

Thank you,

National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition (DC)