

September 23, 2025

The Honorable [Senator/Representative Full Name]

[Address of Senator/Representative] Washington, D.C. [Zip Code]

Subject: Urgent Appeal to Reject Devastating Cuts to Federal HIV Programs

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and service providers who represent thousands of Oregonians living with and affected by HIV, we write to express our deep concern over the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services spending bill recently advanced by the House Appropriations Committee.

This bill proposes a catastrophic and unprecedented reversal of decades of bipartisan progress in the fight against HIV. If enacted, these cuts would not just halt our progress toward ending the HIV epidemic; they would dismantle the public health infrastructure that has saved countless lives in Oregon and across the nation.

The House bill would:

- **Defund the entire Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative**, a targeted, evidence-based effort to stop new transmissions.
- **Eliminate Ryan White Parts C, D, and F**, which are the backbone of community-based early intervention services, care for women and youth, dental programs, and clinical training for our healthcare workforce.
- **Slash funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Fund**, crippling efforts to address deep-seated racial and ethnic health disparities.
- **Eliminate CDC HIV prevention funding**, stripping communities of the science-backed tools to stop the spread of HIV.

For Oregon, these are not abstract threats. The proposed cuts would mean fewer people getting tested for HIV, reduced access to life-saving medications, the closure of housing programs for vulnerable individuals, and the loss of essential support services that help keep people engaged in care. This will lead to poorer health outcomes, increased transmissions, and higher long-term healthcare costs.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has advanced a bipartisan counterproposal that wisely rejects these draconian cuts and maintains stable funding for these essential programs. The Senate now represents the last and best opportunity to protect the health and well-being of our communities.

We, the undersigned, urgently call on you to use your voice and your vote to:

1. **Unequivocally reject the devastating cuts proposed in the House FY26 Labor-HHS bill.**

2. Champion and support the bipartisan funding levels for HIV programs put forth by the Senate.

Oregon has been a leader in the HIV response for forty years. We cannot allow that legacy to be undone. We stand ready to provide any additional information you or your staff may need about the direct impact of these cuts on your constituents.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Cascade AIDS Project
Kristi Addis, Interim Co-CEO & Chief Programs Officer

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL)
Angie Aldred, BSN, RN, ACRN, Chief of HIV Community Services

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Frank J. So, Executive Director

HIVAlliance
Renee Yandel, Executive Director

Multnomah County Health Department
Rachael Banks, Director

OHSU Partnership Project
Julia Lager-Mesulam, Director

Oregon Health & Science University's Russell Street Dental Clinic
Michele Pindyck, DMD, Clinical Director

Quest Center for Integrative Health
David Eisen, Executive Director