



March 31, 2025

Dear Senators and Members of Congress,

The U.S. HIV & AIDS Faith Coalition expresses our grave concerns about the chaos and uncertainty affecting the HIV response due to funding freezes and cuts, firing of staff, and actions both taken and proposed by the White House to eliminate entire divisions critical to ending the HIV epidemic. All of this threatens to severely impede effective HIV prevention, treatment, and care, which will cause more people to contract HIV, more people to become sick, and more people to die.

The essential values of do no harm, the worth and dignity of every person, and the golden rule—treat one another as you wish to be treated—are deeply rooted in nearly every religious tradition or spiritual practice. Houses of worship and spiritual practice have grounded their faith responses to HIV & AIDS in these values since the beginning of the epidemic, guiding advocacy for public policies, funding, and practices that leave no one behind in the struggle to end the epidemic and care for all those affected.

The history of this epidemic has taught us important lessons we must not repeat. We remember when people were unable to access information about HIV, or could not access highly effective HIV antiretroviral therapies, and we remember when pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) were not available. Those were difficult days, and we learned that HIV is not concerned about identity or economic status.

As faith leaders, we are deeply concerned about all the members of our community who need the HIV services being cut or severely disrupted - mothers and infants, children and youth, people of every age and identity - all of whom have worth and dignity that human judgment cannot set aside; all of whom must have access to the HIV prevention, treatment, and care services they need for the sake of public health. These services have proven to lower transmission rates and viral loads, prevent new infections, and enable people to live full and productive lives, moving the U.S. and the world closer to ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

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There is no good public health or economic reason to turn back now on our country's commitment to do everything necessary to end the HIV epidemic when the end is within reach! In fact, data suggest that the cost of the future public health consequences of the proposed cuts will far exceed any perceived savings the U.S. might experience in the short term. As faith leaders, we call on you to have mercy on the people you were elected to serve by restoring and protecting these vital HIV programs, their staffing, and their funding. It is the good, right, and moral thing to do.

Furthermore, as a faithful global partner, we call on you to support a more comprehensive approach to ending the HIV epidemic in the U.S. and throughout the world. This includes supporting:

- The Reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act and PEPFAR with full funding
- The PrEP Access and Coverage Act
- Sustained and robust funding for HIV research
- Sustained and robust funding for HOPWA
- Sustained and robust funding for Minority AIDS Initiative programs
- A bold pledge from the U.S. to the Global Fund

The U.S. HIV & AIDS Faith Coalition is a committed partner in the HIV response and to our mission of working in solidarity and collaboration with people living with and vulnerable to HIV. We are eager to support you in these efforts so that progress continues, moving us forward to ensuring everyone has access to the HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support they need.

Sincerely,

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