



Global AIDS Committee

The United Methodist Church

ACTION ALERT!

Dear Advocate:

Your Voice is Needed!!

During President Trump's State of the Union, he announced the "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America", an effort to eradicate new HIV infections by 2030. This ambitious goal is to be commended; however, in order to accomplish this mission, increased resources will need to be secured. (We need to keep in mind that this is ONLY a plan for the United States and does not address the global AIDS pandemic.)

This week, President Trump released his proposed budget for fiscal year 2020. This now goes to the US Congress for debate, and this is where your advocacy is needed. Below is a summary of what's in the President's budget: (Source: Equitas Ohio)

Positive Budget Items:

\$291 million in new funding for Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America— This new funding includes:

- **\$140 million in new funding for the CDC** to improve diagnosis and testing for HIV in areas of the U.S. where the virus continues to infect people not getting proper treatment;
- **\$70 million for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program;**
- **\$50 million for a new program for community health centers to provide PrEP**, an HIV prevention medication
- **\$25 million for the Indian Health Service; and**
- **\$6 million for the National Institutes of Health's Centers for AIDS Research**

The budget also includes increased funding requests for other existing HIV programs and vital funding to address other infectious diseases (like viral hepatitis) that result from the opiate abuse epidemic.

Negative Budget Cuts:

- **\$63 million in cuts to the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program.** For people living with HIV, access to stable housing is one of the strongest predictors of their ability to access HIV treatment and live healthy lives. Decimating HOPWA like this directly impacts the health and welfare of people living with HIV.
- **\$845 billion in cuts to Medicare and \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid** over 10 years;

- **\$25 billion in cuts to Social Security** over 10 years, including cuts to disability insurance; and
- A **\$220 billion cut to the food stamps program**, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Having access to adequate nutrition is critical for people living with HIV or AIDS.

Nearly 70% of people living with HIV in the US who are in care receive healthcare coverage through Medicaid and/or Medicare. Cutting access to these programs is quite literally an issue of life or death for thousands of people living with HIV.

ACTION NEEDED: Please contact your US Senators and US Representatives asking that NO cuts be made to any funding items impacting people living with HIV. To secure the names of your Senators and Representative, go to:

US Senate: https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

US House of Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Thank you!

Questions? Contact Linda Bales Todd, joylab47@yahoo.com, United Methodist Global AIDS Committee