

I Support Early Diagnosis of HIV in Medical Settings

Illinois Must Help the 10,000 Illinoisans Who Are Unaware of Their HIV-Positive Status

Dear Lawmakers:

Please support efforts to help the estimated 10,000 Illinoisans unaware of their HIV-positive status access the voluntary HIV testing, treatment, and support services they need to live longer, healthier lives.

In particular, please support a new appropriation of \$2 million for the Illinois Department of Public Health to carry out a coordinated campaign to expand the offer of voluntary HIV testing in health care settings.

With public health leadership, Illinois can increase the number of state residents who take an HIV test and take control. Illinois officials should:

- Create a grants program to increase the offer of voluntary HIV testing in medical settings
- Help train healthcare workers and facilities about model ways to offer voluntary HIV testing
- Streamline the HIV testing process
- Connect high-risk, HIV-negative individuals to HIV-prevention counseling
- Connect HIV-positive individuals with needed medical care and support services

An estimated 40,000-42,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Illinois. About 10,000 of them (one in four) do not know they are infected with HIV, and lack specialized medical care that would help many to live longer, healthier lives. A large number of people with undiagnosed HIV infection are believed to be people of color.

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Name (print): _____

Organization (if any) _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Email (optional): _____

Signature: _____

- Check here to authorize using your organization's name in support to this initiative.
 Check here to sign up for AFC's Statewide Advocacy Network.

Please fax to 312-922-2916 **as soon as possible**. For more information, contact John Peller, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 312-334-0921 or jpeller@aidschicago.org.