

Attention Individuals, Consumers, Service Providers and Friends! ILLINOIS HIV/AIDS FUNDING PETITION

Beginning July 1, 2010, Illinois state government will need to operate with approximately half the revenue that was available one year ago. Life-saving services, including medications, supportive services, housing, and HIV prevention programs, are at risk of severe reductions or elimination. Fiscal collapse can be avoided if the legislature passes a budget that includes fair and reasonable tax increases with provisions to reduce the impact on working families.

Please sign this letter and provide your home address so we ensure your state representative and senator receive it. **USE THE SPACE PROVIDED TO SAY WHY HIV PROGRAMS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU.**

Fax this letter IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGNING to Pete Subkoviak at (312) 922-2916. **Be sure to include your home address, city and zip code** so we can send it to your legislators.

Questions? Call Pete at (312) 334-0963 or psubkoviak@aidschicago.org. Be sure to include your email address so we can keep you posted on new developments! For more information, visit www.aidschicago.org.

Dear Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

I am deeply concerned that the unprecedented state budget crisis is jeopardizing critical HIV-related services, including HIV prevention, life-saving medications and supportive services such as housing. ***Please increase HIV funding in the state budget to \$44 million next year to meet the rising need for HIV medications and restore HIV prevention, housing, and care programs.*** Please support HB 6173 and SB 3821, which would allocate this funding next year.

The impact of state budget cuts will be devastating. Low-income, uninsured people with HIV could be forced to wait weeks or months for medications that they must take daily to prevent life-threatening health conditions, costly hospital stays, disability, and death. Without HIV prevention programs, the number of new HIV infections will rise.

HIV programs are important to me because:

We need a responsible budget along the lines of House Bill 174. Illinois must raise significant new revenues to avoid even more harmful cuts to crucial HIV and other needed services. Illinois can't cut services any further without endangering the lives of vulnerable Illinoisans. It's time for a balanced, responsible approach: a general tax increase combined with fairness measures to raise additional revenues as proposed in HB 174. We need your leadership. **You are my voice in the Illinois legislature. I am looking to you to stand up for me and people living with and at risk of HIV/AIDS. Can I count on you to vote in favor of keeping your constituents and all Illinoisans healthy, housed, and alive?**

Sincerely,

(Please print clearly and provide all information so we can forward to your state legislator.)

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: IL Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____