

# Protect Critical Health Services for People with HIV!

Dear member of the Illinois General Assembly,

As a constituent of your district, I am deeply concerned that Governor Pat Quinn and the General Assembly are considering cutting funding for HIV programs by 16%. If enacted, Illinois will have reduced state HIV funding by \$9 million, or 30%, since 2011.

**HIV is a communicable disease, but 50% of people with HIV in Illinois are not receiving medical care and are at greatest risk of transmitting HIV in the community. Illinois can virtually eliminate HIV transmission with proven interventions such as linkage to HIV medications and medical care.**

I urge you to **protect state HIV funding and continue to invest \$26 million in HIV services** to:

- Help HIV-positive, uninsured Illinoisans transition smoothly into the new health care plans offered in 2014 without any dangerous interruptions in HIV treatment.
- Provide complete coverage for newly insured Illinoisans with HIV – such as community outreach and retention workers, emergency housing assistance, or medication adherence counseling – to ensure they obtain and remain in medical care.
- Reverse past funding cuts to community-based HIV prevention, education and housing services that will maximize insurance coverage and state services to decrease the cost and burden of HIV on future generations.

**Will you stand with me and oppose cuts to HIV funding and in this year's budget?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Lucy Baglin (tel (312) 334-0909, lbaglin@aidschicago.org fax (312)-922-2916,) **no later than Friday, May 31.** For more information on proposed budget cuts, please contact Ramon Gardenhire, AFC's Director of Government Relations, at [rgardenhire@aidschicago.org](mailto:rgardenhire@aidschicago.org).*