

AIDSWatchSM

LATE BREAKING TALKING POINTS

Protecting Essential Federal HIV Prevention Funding & Infrastructure

The Trump Administration's policy actions are directly undermining our nation's ability to prevent the spread of HIV in communities across the country.

The United States' HIV prevention infrastructure—dedicated to providing state and local health departments, community based organizations, and millions of Americans, with the resources they need to reduce new HIV transmissions—is being decimated. At the same time, essential federal programs that send millions of dollars into our communities to prevent the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases are being slashed.

We cannot end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. without significant investment in HIV preventative services.

We know that:

- HIV prevention saves money and it saves lives. A lifetime of medical costs for a person with HIV can be in excess of \$420,000 and the CDC estimates that approximately 9,000 HIV infections were averted between 2017 and 2022, saving an estimated \$5 billion.
- 91% of all federal HIV prevention funding goes through the CDC. The flagship Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, which is dedicated to providing care and treatment for people living with HIV, cannot pick up the slack of these lost resources.
- Prevention programming currently supported by CDC will either be lost completely or passed onto the states to cover. State budgets are tight and states cannot afford to replace these lost resources.
- The dismantling of our federal HIV prevention programs will be felt in every county, city, and town across this country. If cut, the services it funds will not be replaced, meaning more people will contract HIV, more people will get sick, babies will once again be born with HIV, and more people will die.

Protecting Medicaid from Attacks through Reconciliation

In an effort to fund misguided legislative priorities like tax breaks for the ultra wealthy, those pushing for them in Congress must find ways to pay for them. To achieve those goals, they're using a procedural gimmick called reconciliation and they've set their sights on Medicaid. The only way to extract significant "savings" from Medicaid is by kicking people off and/or passing those costs onto the states.

The budget resolution recently passed by House Republicans includes drastic spending reductions. There is no way for them to achieve the at least \$880 billion in savings they're looking for without implementing policies that will make people ineligible for Medicaid and reduce benefits for those still enrolled in Medicaid. These are not minor tweaks. This money can only be saved by radically cutting the number of Americans who are enrolled in Medicaid and removing key health benefits from the program.

We must urge Congress to reject any efforts to cut Medicaid, including:

- Attempts to change Medicaid from a needs-based system to one based on per capita caps that artificially limit health care access to our most vulnerable populations,
- Policies that shift the burden for the provision of care through Medicaid to state and local governments.
- Efforts to enact harmful and ineffective work requirements on Medicaid recipients that serve only to disenroll working Americans with administrative paperwork gimmicks.

Preserving the HIV Safety Net

The foundation of our nation's HIV treatment and care infrastructure is under threat. In fewer than three months, the Trump Administration has launched a series of attacks on vital programs and personnel, which will undo more than three decades' worth of progress towards ending the HIV epidemic.

Whether through unconstitutional federal funding freezes across the whole of government, or targeted cuts through discriminatory executive orders and unlawful cancellation of funding that has already been appropriated by Congress, the end results will be the same. Lifesaving services to people living with HIV will be harder to access, our ability to combat emerging HIV outbreaks will be compromised, and research initiatives that facilitate more effective care for our communities and lead to breakthroughs in new medications and the possibility of an HIV vaccine will be destroyed.

We must demand that Congress preserve the HIV safety net by rejecting the unconscionable cuts to HIV programming being made by the Trump Administration and provide protections in future appropriations bills mandating that The White House spend all of the HIV funding allocated as intended by Congress.