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July 22, 2009

Representative Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Representative Joe Barton  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

On behalf of the Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA) I am writing to support a ***one year extension*** of the Ryan White Modernization Act of 2006. C2EA is a diverse coalition of people living with HIV & AIDS, their advocates and their loved ones. Together, we're working with our leaders to exert the political will to stop the epidemic, in the U.S. and abroad, once and for all. In contrast to those that signed on to Community Consensus document you may have received, C2EA is primarily made of individuals and community groups predominantly comprised of people living with HIV/AIDS who access Ryan White services from the community based organizations – though there are some larger community based organizations nationwide that support our leadership.

C2EA actually agrees with the community consensus document on issues such as authorization levels, protection for states with maturing HIV case data, extension of TGA eligibility, hold harmless provisions, provisions of food pursuant to a doctor's prescription and an altered definition of medical transportation as core medical services, use of ADAP rebate dollars, timeframe on expenditure of obligated funds, Part D medical expenses, Severity of Need Index and client level data. ***Our biggest concern is the time frame in which Ryan White will be addressed.*** We urge the Congress to carefully consider our recommendation to pass an ***extension for just one year.*** The urgency of this matter must be considered and we have witnessed Congress being able to successfully pass thoughtful legislation in a much more expedient fashion.

We believe that Ryan White should move on a parallel track with health care reform and the National AIDS Strategy, both of which will be moving this year. We anticipate many infrastructural changes to the way funds are delivered through to community based organizations and Ryan White must reflect those changes, bridging any gaps that may be caused as a result of those changes. Within the next year, community based organizations

must have a clear understanding of how health care reform will impact their service delivery and have processes in place to make the systemic changes to be able to adequately meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Should we wait until 2012 or beyond to address Ryan White we are in grave danger of seeing tremendous gaps in service delivery as the Program does not inherently have the flexibility needed to adjust as new policies are implemented. We would like any new Ryan White legislation to build in that flexibility.

We understand that jurisdictions always have the option of requesting waivers for their particular situation but have also seen that many of the grantees either refuse to ask for the waivers or are unaware of the waiver process thereby leaving their communities lacking the services that they could have requested.

We hope that the one year extension that is currently in the Administration budget be maintained and that Congress work, in collaboration with the entire community, to expeditiously write Ryan White Legislation that will not only work for the community based organizations but also for the people that they serve.

Sincerely,

*Marsha Jones*

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