Statement on the 2020 Election and FY 2021 Appropriations
Community-led Coalition Welcomes Signs of Ongoing Bipartisan Commitment to Ending HIV as an Epidemic

Contact: Jeremiah Johnson, TAG, Jeremiah.Johnson@treatmentactiongroup.org

November 2020 — The ACT NOW: END AIDS (ANEA) Coalition celebrates the unprecedented 2020 election turnout and congratulates President-elect Joe Biden, and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on their clear and historic victory. Thanks in part to community advocacy, President-elect Biden has called for ending the HIV epidemic by 2025, echoing what ANEA and several HIV leaders called for in our coalition’s September meeting with key policy staffers from the Biden Campaign and reflecting the recommendations of over 300 community-led organizations contained in the ANEA Community Roadmap to End HIV. We look forward to working with the President-elect’s transition team to translate goals and rhetoric into reality.

ANEI also enthusiastically applauds the Senate’s proposed critical funding increases to safety-net programs (Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs, Community Health Centers PrEP programs, and the Eliminating Opioid-Related Infectious Disease programs) and institutions instrumental to ending HIV— the CDC and NIH. What the United States is able to accomplish in the next five years— particularly following service interruptions due to COVID-19— depends on the political will to fund and implement treatment, prevention, and stigma-reduction strategies that center on people living with and vulnerable to HIV. The latest proposed Senate appropriations bills are a vital step toward ensuring that the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative— as well as all the community organizing that has grown up around it— progresses without delay.

As the 2021 appropriations process advances, we hope to see these EHE increases preserved. ANEA also strongly urges our congressional allies to secure funding increases for all domestic HIV and viral hepatitis programs, including HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) and the Division of Viral Hepatitis, which is chronically underfunded and has been flat-funded since FY 2019. “A key way for the new administration to demonstrate its commitment to achieving the 2025 EHE goals, is through lifting the federal funding ban on the purchase of sterile syringes, which are instrumental in preventing both HIV and viral hepatitis. It is imperative that this recommendation is enrolled into the final appropriations bill,” says Charles King, CEO at Housing Works Inc. and ANEA Co-Chair.

The momentum and resources the HIV movement has gained since the announcement of a National HIV/AIDS Strategy and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (both introduced by President Obama) have led us to the current federal EHE Initiative. “While it incorporates some of the recommendations put forward by the community-driven Roadmap, we need Congress and President-Elect Biden to roll back and permanently end the destructive and draconian restrictions to sexual and reproductive healthcare, rights and justice for women and girls at home and abroad. We also expect them to further invest in the communities that for too long have been disproportionately impacted by HIV in this country through the correlating disparities of racism, low-income, stigma, and inadequate access to competent healthcare services if we are going to stop HIV by 2025,” says Dazon Dixon Diallo, Founder/President of Sister Love Inc. and ANEA Co-Chair.

ANEI is ready to elevate a truly innovative, community-driven, and far-reaching next phase in the EHE initiative. We look forward to working towards the 2025 goals in partnership with the forthcoming administration and all of our allies in Congress.

Learn more about our community-led efforts and invest in the work of ANEA: www.anea.org
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