



November 1, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Leahy and DeLauro, Vice Chair Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger,

**Relief for patients and those working on the front lines of monkeypox can't wait.** In the last five months, nearly 30,000 people in the United States have contracted monkeypox—an excruciatingly painful, yet largely preventable disease that has overwhelmingly affected gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM). And as the outbreak has spread, the disease has been allowed to gain greater footholds among Black and Brown GBM. As of the end of September, Black and Latino individuals make up an astounding 70% of cases, yet have received only 32% of the country's administered vaccines.

**We also know that people living with HIV have been disproportionately impacted by monkeypox** and are more likely to be hospitalized, most often due to pain. And the pain is real; people living with HIV who get monkeypox are more likely to report rectal pain or bleeding, proctitis, and purulent or bloody stools.

Enduring and overlapping sexual health stigma, homophobia, and racism have obstructed our nation's willingness to respond with the resources necessary to end this outbreak, and the silence from Congress speaks volumes about whose pain matters and whose doesn't.

The tools we need to end this outbreak already exist, but Congress has kept them out of reach by failing to intervene. As a result, the U.S. is home to more than a third of all cases worldwide. And although the first wave of the outbreak is subsiding, the U.S. cannot afford to be shortsighted with the trajectory of this or any infectious disease outbreak. **We urge you to include \$4.5 billion dollars for the monkeypox response—as requested by the White House—in Congress's FY 2023 funding package.**

This funding will equip the federal government and those working on the front lines with the resources they need to mount a comprehensive and strategic response to the current public health emergency. **We have the responsibility to ensure Americans, particularly those most at risk for the disease, are protected, but we lack the resources to do so without your help. What happens next is up to you.**

Sincerely,

Organizations

AACI  
AccessHealth MA (formerly Community Research Initiative)  
Advocates for Youth  
AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Alabama South  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
AIDS United  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
APLA Health  
Appalachian Learning Initiative  
Ararat  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Bienestar Human Services  
Birmingham AIDS Outreach  
Cares Sexual Wellness Services  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Centro Ararat  
Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus  
Chicago House and Social Service Agency  
Coai, Inc.  
Coalicion de Coaliciones Pro Personas sin Hogar de PR, Inc.  
CryOut Teen Organization  
Detroit Latin@z  
Equality Federation  
ETSU HIV Center of Excellence  
Fenway Health  
Frontline Legal Services  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Georgia Equality  
Health GAP  
Healthy Teen Network  
HIV Medicine Association  
Housing Works  
Huntridge Family Clinic  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Kumukahi Health + Wellness  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Los Angeles Family AIDS Network  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Mazzoni Center  
Migrant Health Center Western Region Inc.  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
NASTAD

NMAC  
North Carolina AIDS Action Network  
NovaSalud, Inc  
Organización latina trans in Texas  
PACTA Inc.  
PALSS  
Peoria City/County Health Department  
Positive People Network Inc.  
PRCONCRA  
Presbyterian HIV Network, PHEWA, PC USA  
Pride Center of Vermont  
Project Weber/RENEW  
Safer Together  
San Francisco Community Health Center  
SEEDS of Healing, Inc  
The AIDS Institute  
The community Wellness Project  
The Wall Las Memorias Project  
Treatment Action Group  
Tuscaloosa Latino Coalition  
UTOPIA WA  
Valley AIDS Council  
Vivent Health  
Waves ahead Puerto Rico

Individuals

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Alexie M. Lugo Canales	PR
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Alicia Couret	PR
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Amanda Stafford	WA
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Claude Bowen	GA
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Gerald Garcia	PR
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Maria Lugo	PR
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Shey Thorn	AL
Shirley Terry-Lewis	TN
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Suzette Velez	PR
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Tagg Doll	MI
Teddrick Douglas	TX



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