

HIV+HEP
POLICY INSTITUTE
PRESS RELEASE

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HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute Comments on 2024 Election Results
Ending HIV & Hepatitis in the US Must Remain a Priority

Washington DC... In response to the election of former President Donald Trump and Senator JD Vance, **Carl Schmid, executive director of HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute**, issued the following statement:

*“The American people have spoken and elected Donald Trump and JD Vance as our next President and Vice President. The **HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute** will work with the new administration on furthering efforts to end HIV and hepatitis in the United States. With proper leadership, policies, and funding, we can end both these infectious diseases.*

In his 2019 State of the Union address, Trump announced that we would ‘eliminate the HIV epidemic in the United States within ten years.’ This led to the historic [Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative](#) that increases HIV testing, treatment and prevention programs, including scaling up PrEP, which are drugs that prevent HIV.

At the same time, his administration proposed cuts to other HIV and health programs and proposed to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, including its non-discrimination protections.

Ending HIV and hepatitis cannot happen without a comprehensive healthcare system that includes robust private insurance, Medicaid and Medicare programs, upholding non-discrimination protections, and combating stigma and disparities. Healthcare access and affordability, particularly for prescription drugs, are critically important. We will continue to fight to ensure all payers provide the drugs people need at a price they can afford. Of immediate concern for the new administration will be ensuring that copay assistance patients receive to afford their drugs will count towards their out-of-pocket cost obligations.

We look forward to working with President-elect Trump on ensuring that the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative is fully funded and expanded in order to fulfill the goal of ending HIV in the United States. In recent years, House Republicans have proposed to eliminate funding for the program.

HIV + HEPATITIS POLICY INSTITUTE

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There will be many policy and funding decisions that the Trump-Vance administration must make and work with the new Congress to pass. We realize that we live in a divided country and not everyone shares the same priorities and views. However, no matter one's views, these decisions must be based on science so that we can continue to advance the interests of people living with or at risk of HIV and hepatitis and others who live with serious and chronic health conditions."

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The **HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute** is a national, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote quality and affordable healthcare for people living with or at risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other serious and chronic health conditions.