HIV+HEP
POLICY INSTITUTE

PRESS STATEMENT

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Senate Appropriations Bill Flat Funds Domestic HIV Programs

Washington DC... In response to the FY2027 spending bill released by the Senate Appropriations Committee, **Carl Schmid, executive director** of the **HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute**, issued the following statement:

"The release of the Senate Labor-HHS spending bill is an important step in moving Congress closer to continuing to fund critical domestic HIV prevention and treatment programs. The bill maintains funding for existing HIV testing, prevention, and surveillance programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as care and treatment in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Program. *Ending the HIV Epidemic* funding is also maintained, including the community health center PrEP program administered by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). Funding for hepatitis prevention is maintained at $46 million.

"This bill stands in stark contrast to the bill passed by the House Appropriations Committee earlier this year which cut over $1 billion to these programs. While we are pleased that the Senate bill contains no cuts, flat funding does not recognize increased enrollment and healthcare costs. Several state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs are facing budget deficits and implementing cost containment measures constricting eligibility and eliminating drugs from their formularies. We have requested an immediate increase of $175 million to the program to ensure that people living with HIV can continue to access their lifesaving medications.

"We are also urging Congress to re-establish direct CDC funding for community-based organizations (CBOs). The administration ended prevention grants for CBOs at the end of September which has resulted in serious disruptions throughout the country in the delivery of preventive services, including PrEP. As this bill moves through Congress, we urge Congress to restore this funding and provide needed increases."

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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.