



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

January 18, 2005

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in support of the Ryan White CARE Act Title I grant application for the New York Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) for FY 2005. While I understand the fiscal year 2005 federal appropriation for Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act is expected to be level funded, I respectfully request that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provide the New York EMA with \$134,084,917 in vital Title I funding – the full amount requested in the grant application.

New York City remains the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic nationally, with almost 89,000 New Yorkers diagnosed and known to be living with HIV, including 57,316 diagnosed with AIDS and at least an estimated 25,000 additional people living with HIV but not yet diagnosed. In 2003 alone the number of reported new HIV/AIDS cases was 4,086, which surpasses the total number of people living with AIDS in many U.S. cities. With less than 3% of the U.S. population, the New York EMA has almost 16% of people living with AIDS. New York had the highest rate of new AIDS cases in both 2001 and 2002, and the number of people living with AIDS has doubled in the last nine years.

New York has a complex epidemic where people living with HIV and AIDS have a high percentage of co-morbidities (such as serious mental health problems, intravenous drug use, and other sexually transmitted diseases) and persons in extreme poverty that are concentrated in traditionally marginalized populations. Among people living with HIV/AIDS, 73% of the recently diagnosed have incomes under \$10,000 annually, 77% are minority, and fewer than 10% have private health insurance.

We understand the difficulties placed on the Department of Health and Human Services and the Health Resources and Services Administration by flat funding of Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act. Meanwhile, the Centers for Disease Control initiative “Advancing HIV Prevention: New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic,” launched in April 2003, will significantly increase the demand for HIV-related care and services in communities across our country and

within the New York EMA. This initiative to help HIV-infected individuals learn their status is untenable without providing the resources that will allow them to access care and treatment that can improve and lengthen their lives.

Therefore, on behalf of the New York EMA, I am requesting that, through the Health Resources and Services Administration, you provide the New York EMA with \$134,084,917 in essential Title I funding. The lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in New York depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Bloomberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

MRB:jc

cc: Carol Thompson, Acting Director
White House Office of National AIDS Policy

Elizabeth Duke, Ph.D., Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration

Deborah Parham, Ph.D., Associate Administrator
HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2005

The Honorable Mike Leavitt
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

We are writing in support of the Ryan White CARE Act Title I grant application for the New York Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) for FY 2005. While we understand the fiscal year 2005 federal appropriation for Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act is expected to be level funded, we respectfully request that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provide the New York EMA with \$134,084,917 in vital Title I funding – the full amount requested in the grant application.

New York City remains the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic nationally, with almost 89,000 New Yorkers diagnosed and known to be living with HIV, including 57,316 diagnosed with AIDS and at least an estimated 25,000 additional people living with HIV but not yet diagnosed. In 2003 alone the number of reported new HIV/AIDS cases was 4,086, which surpasses the total number of people living with AIDS in many U.S. cities. With less than 3% of the U.S. population, the New York EMA has almost 16% of people living with AIDS. New York had the highest rate of new AIDS cases in both 2001 and 2002, and the number of people living with AIDS has doubled in the last nine years. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control initiative “Advancing HIV Prevention: New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic,” which will help HIV-infected individuals learn their status requires the diagnosis and treatment of perhaps thousands of new cases. Cutting Title I funding in New York City at a time when the numbers of individuals needing services is rapidly increasing would be disastrous.

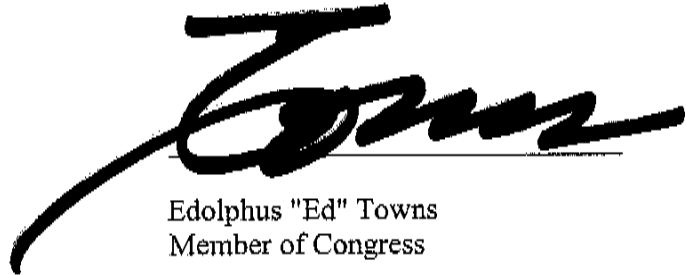
New York has a complex epidemic where people living with HIV and AIDS have a high percentage of co-morbidities (such as serious mental health problems, intravenous drug use, and other sexually transmitted diseases), live in extreme poverty, and are concentrated in traditionally marginalized populations. Among people living with HIV/AIDS, 73% of the recently diagnosed have incomes under \$10,000 annually, 77% are minority, and fewer than 10% have private health insurance.

Therefore, on behalf of the New York EMA, we are requesting that, through the Health Resources and Services Administration, you provide the New York EMA with \$134,084,917 in essential Title I funding. The lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in New York depend on it.

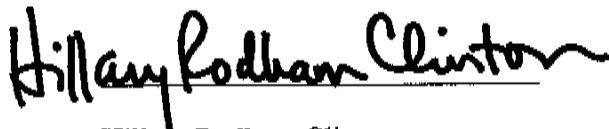
Sincerely,



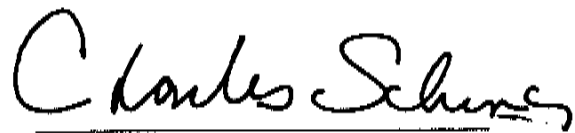
Vito J. Fossella
Member of Congress



Edolphus "Ed" Towns
Member of Congress



Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator




Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



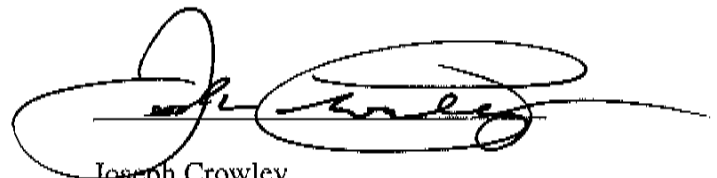
Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress



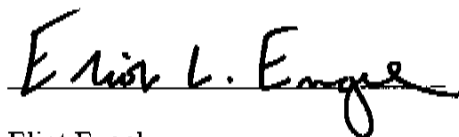
Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



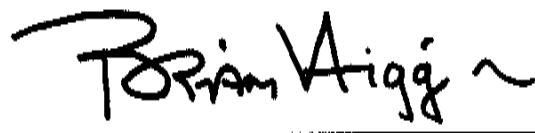
Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress



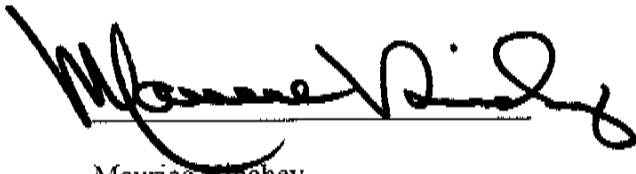
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



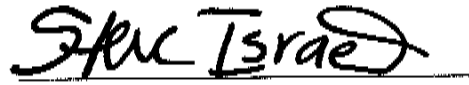
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



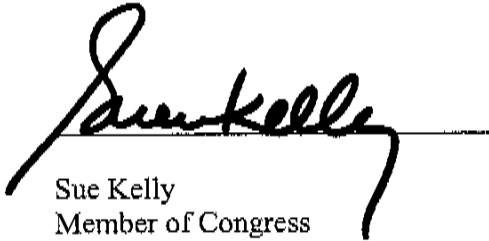
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



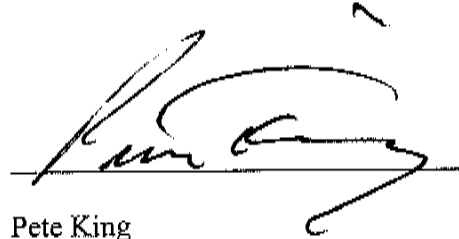
Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



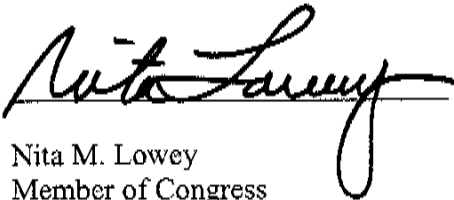
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



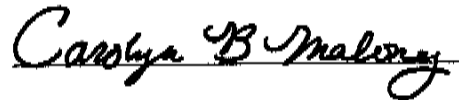
Sue Kelly
Member of Congress



Pete King
Member of Congress



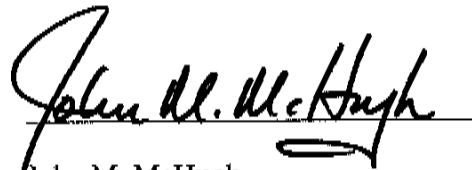
Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



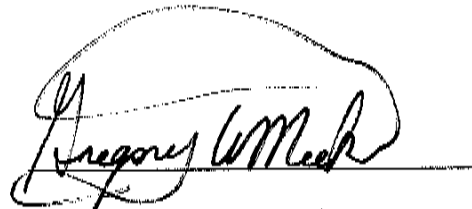
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



John M. McHugh
Member of Congress



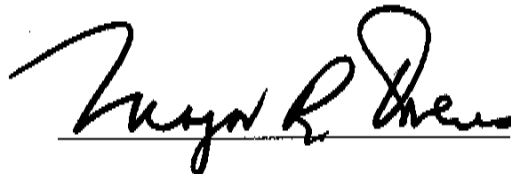
Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



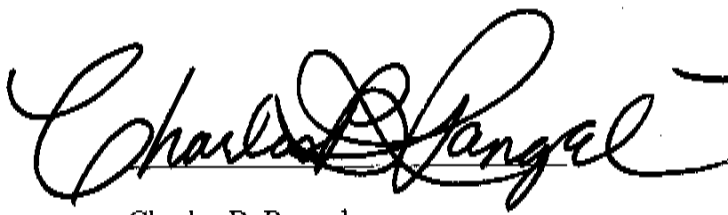
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



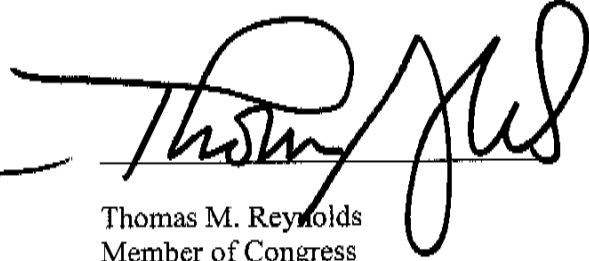
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



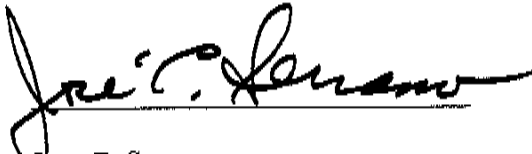
Major R. Owens
Member of Congress



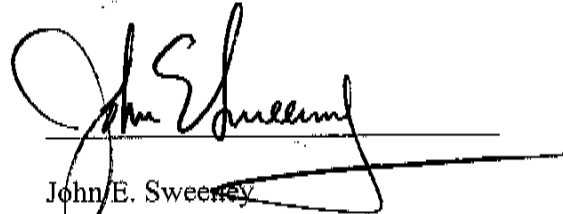
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



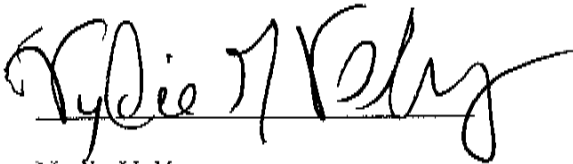
Thomas M. Reynolds
Member of Congress



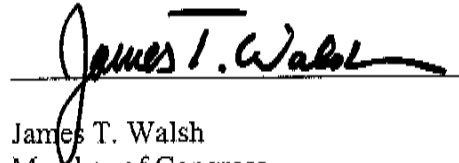
Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



John E. Sweeney
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress



Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress

cc: Carol Thompson, Acting Director
White House Office of National AIDS Policy

Elizabeth Duke, PhD, Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration

Deborah Parham, PhD, Associate Administrator
HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau