

[Date]

Dear Pennsylvania Department of Health,

This letter is in support of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) on behalf of AIDS Free Pittsburgh (AFP) and their proposed Ending the HIV Epidemic Pennsylvania initiative. As a collaborative group that advocates for equitable access to HIV care and services, we strongly recommend and would welcome a statewide initiative to end the HIV epidemic.

Normalizing routine testing, increasing access to Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and improving linkage to care are critical components to ending the HIV epidemic. With Ending the HIV Epidemic Pennsylvania, providers, support organizations, and collaborative members will utilize the collective impact model framework to reach these goals. The initiative will open opportunities for more effective and efficient statewide resource sharing, enhance patient and provider resources, improve data collection to better understand statewide trends, improve and unify statewide messaging, aid in reaching more individuals impacted by HIV, increase the number of people who know their HIV status, and bring more general providers into this public health movement.

We support this initiative because it will increase equitable access to preventative care, treatments, and services and empower more community-based organizations and providers with resources to reach collective goals, improving the overall health of communities statewide. In addition, Ending the HIV Epidemic Pennsylvania's goals parallel those of the HIV Planning Group: to ensure new HIV infections in Pennsylvania are rare and ensure the highest quality of care is not only accessible to all, but is provided without stigma or discrimination.

We acknowledge that JHF will be responsible for the operational aspects of Ending the HIV Epidemic Pennsylvania. This organization has the fiscal, organizational, and collaborative bandwidth to facilitate the enhancement of current activities statewide and implement new and innovative activities where needed. With JHF's leadership and strong track record, coupled with the statewide expertise of the HIV Planning Group, we are confident this initiative will prove successful.

To conclude, the HIV Planning Group supports Ending the HIV Epidemic Pennsylvania. We are excited for Pennsylvania to join a growing number of states that have established similar initiatives and look forward to the overall health benefits Pennsylvania residents will receive.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Print name]

[Title]

[Agency Name]