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AETC Advocacy Day Talking Points April 29-30, 2019

The Administration announced its plan to end the domestic HIV epidemic in the next 10 years shortly after the community released its own, a policy paper entitled *Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States: A Roadmap for Federal Action*. While the two plans differ in approach, what's clear is that any end to the epidemic must include congressional buy-in and increased support for the Ryan White Program. Over the last two and a half decades, the Ryan White Program has proven its ability to adapt and respond to the changing needs of HIV care in the U.S. **The AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs), a segment of Part F of the Ryan White Program, are some of the most vital resources to increasing the quantity and quality of services, working to develop the vital HIV workforce and to achieving the goals of getting to zero new infections.**

- HIV education and training programs for health care providers are critical to develop and strengthen first responders to the HIV epidemic. When the need for knowledgeable clinicians trained to provide HIV treatment arises, the AETCs have led the way to ensure access to quality care time and time again.
- In the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations, House and Senate appropriators stepped up to the plate and showed that they understand the vital importance of both AETCs and the SPNS Program to the health and welfare of our nation, restoring both to level funding and reversing the Trump Administration's decision to zero out the programs.
- Unfortunately, the Trump administration has decided not to invest necessary further resources in either the AETCs and SPNS program, striking a major blow to the ability of our nation's medical providers to offer quality health care to people living with and affected by HIV. This year, **we must once again ask you to invest in these programs and provide increased funding for the AETCs to facilitate an end to the epidemic.**

As the wider health system continues to change, it is critically important that policymakers retain their strong support and funding for all aspects of this program that is leading the nation's efforts to care for people living with HIV and reduce the number of new HIV infections. The Ryan White Program provides a model for other health care fields on how to effectively and efficiently operate a holistic system for providing at-risk populations with the services they need to live healthy, full lives. We have the knowledge and tools to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.; Congress must provide the resources.