



May 19, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: A Coordinated Federal Response to Viral Hepatitis**

Dear President Trump:

We the undersigned organizations write to alert your attention to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (The National Academies) new consensus report, [\*A National Strategy for the Elimination of Hepatitis B and C\*](#). This report states clearly that the elimination of hepatitis B and C as public health threats by the year 2030 is possible if your administration provides strong central leadership. We therefore urge you to adopt the report's top recommendation to develop and oversee a robust coordinated effort to end the epidemic of viral hepatitis in the United States.

Nearly 5 million Americans live with hepatitis B or C. Most are unaware of their infection, leaving them at risk for advanced liver disease. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are the leading causes of liver cancer in the United States. Liver cancer is one of the few cancers on the rise, and one of the deadliest. The epidemics of hepatitis B and C have surpassed that of HIV/AIDS and annually kill more people than all 60 reportable infectious diseases combined. The nation's opioid crisis continues to fuel the rapid spread of both viruses. Despite these challenges, however, the National Academies' report concludes in no uncertain terms that the United States can eliminate hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030, averting nearly 90,000 deaths, and putting us on the path to achieve one of the greatest public health victories in our lifetimes.

The National Academies' report reminds us that strong central leadership is key to successful disease elimination. Only a rigorous federal response to hepatitis B and C can make the elimination of viral hepatitis a reality. Leadership from the White House on this issue will further the role of the United States as an international leader in public health, saving countless lives and driving down health care costs in the process. We ask you to take immediate steps toward launching this effort.

Thank you for considering our request. We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about the report, including options for establishing this high-level coordinating role within your administration. Please contact Elizabeth Paukstis, Public Policy Director at the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (202-306-9779; [epaukstis@nvhr.org](mailto:epaukstis@nvhr.org)), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)  
The AIDS Institute



America Run For The End of AIDS (AREA)  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)  
American Liver Foundation  
Any Positive Change, Inc  
Asian Health Coalition  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Pacific Health Foundation  
Asian Pacific Liver Center  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing  
Bronx Lebanon Family Medicine  
California Hepatitis Alliance  
California Hepatitis C Task Force  
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.  
CARLDEN, Inc.  
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center  
Chinese American Medical Society  
Chicago Recovery Alliance  
CHOW Project  
Coalition of Asian-American IPA (CAIPA)  
Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
C.O.R.E. Medical Clinic, Inc.  
The COSHAR Healthy Communities Foundation  
Desert AIDS Project  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
El Punto en la Montaña, Puerto Rico  
END AIDS NOW  
EndHepCMA Coalition  
Equitas Health  
The Georgetown Medical Aids Advocacy Network  
Global Liver Institute  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
H.E.A.L.S of the South  
Healthy Rhythm Consulting  
Help & Education for Liver Patients (HELP!)  
Hep B Free-Los Angeles  
Hep B United  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Hepatitis B Coalition of Washington  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HepC Alliance



The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group  
Hepatitis Education Project  
Hepatitis C Support Project/HCV Advocate  
Hepatitis Outbreaks' National Organization for Reform (HONORreform)  
Hispanic Health Network  
Homeless Health Care Los Angeles  
Indiana Recovery Alliance  
International Community Health Services  
Ka Hale Pomaika'i Recovery Center  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Liver Health Connection  
Lynn Community Health Center  
National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project (NATAP)  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Hepatitis Task Forces  
New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Minority and Multicultural Health  
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition (OAAHC)  
One Voice Recovery, Inc.  
OraSure Technologies, Inc.  
Point Defiance Aids Projects  
Project Inform  
Recovery 2000, Inc.  
San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force  
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
Urban Survivors Union  
The Veterans Health Council  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
VOCAL-NY  
The Wall-Las Memorias Project

cc: The Honorable Tom Price, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services