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), 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 (HONOReform)
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