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Community Access National Network Responds to California Cutting Funding for Critical AIDS Drug Assistance Program

WASHINGTON, DC (September 17, 2025) – Today, Jen Laws, President & CEO of Community Access National Network (CANN), released the following statement in response to certain provisions within the Budget Trailer Bill, [AB 144](#):

“The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is critical to our community. It ensures those living with HIV receive direct health care support, particularly treatments and medications that improve quality of life and prevent costly complications. Unfortunately, SB 144 proposes to divert nearly \$20 million from the ADAP Rebate Fund for ‘state operations.’

“It’s incredibly concerning that the California State Legislature is ripping critical resources away from people living with HIV. Previous policy iterations proposed to transition these funds in favor of those who are sero negative; however, SB 144 is a blanket cut. This will not only contribute to widening health disparities, but it also walks California dangerously close to repeating the sins of the past.

“Aside from the ethical and moral challenges this decision brings, I urge California policymakers to review Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act, which established ADAP and statutorily prohibits the use of program funds from being used for services or health care for people *not* living with HIV. These are targeted dollars that cannot – and should not – be diverted for other purposes, yet provisions within SB 144 do exactly that.

“The last thing Californians living with HIV should expect was for their Legislature to follow in the footsteps of the Trump Administration. We’ll continue to fight at the federal – and state – level to ensure those living with HIV are afforded the health care and treatment they not only deserve but are statutorily guaranteed to receive.”

For general information and media inquiries, please contact press@tiicann.org.

About Community Access National Network: *The mission of the Community Access National Network (CANN) is to define, promote, and improve access to healthcare services and supports for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or Viral Hepatitis through advocacy, education, and networking. These services must be affordable to the people who need them regardless of insurance status, income, or geographic location.*