



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield
(202) 224-6770

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***ENZI PRESSES SENATE TO UPHOLD
FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF LIFE-SAVING HIV/AIDS FUNDING***

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) today urged the Senate to approve his amendment to ensure that the House Democratic Leadership does not use the omnibus appropriations bill to cheat struggling communities out of funds they desperately need to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, in order to steer that money to their home districts.

“The omnibus appropriations package would take money away from vulnerable populations and give it to a few large cities like San Francisco,” said Enzi, Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. “Money for HIV/AIDS treatment should go to the people who need it, regardless of where they live.”

“There are people across the country who are dying while on waiting lists to get the treatment they need. If the Senate does not overturn this egregious provision, more people will die so that San Francisco can continue to get more than its fair share of HIV/AIDS funding.”

The omnibus package includes a provision to overturn the bipartisan funding formulas that the Senate and House carefully negotiated in the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act in 2006. The formulas in the reauthorization distributed funds to treat HIV/AIDS more fairly across the country, particularly in rural areas and the South, where the disease is spreading most rapidly.

The House Democratic Leadership inserted a provision to the omnibus appropriations bill, HR 1105, that would revert to the funding levels prior to the 2006 reauthorization. Those outdated formulas did not take into account HIV cases, only cases that had progressed to the final stage of AIDS, and favored cities like San Francisco, which have been receiving far more than their fair share of federal dollars. The Enzi amendment would uphold the formulas that Congress established in the 2006 reauthorization.

“This end run goes against the very core of the mission of the Ryan White reauthorization, which revised critically flawed funding formulas to ensure that federal dollars are used to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic of today, not yesterday,” Enzi said.

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