



For Immediate Release

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**HIV/AIDS Act Will Save Lives
*Senate Action Gives Ryan White Momentum, Enzi Says***

Washington, D.C. – The bipartisan Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009, approved unanimously today by the U.S. Senate, will save lives by ensuring that people with HIV/AIDS across the country can get the treatment they need, Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) announced.

“Millions of Americans living with HIV/AIDS rely on the Ryan White program to get the treatment they need. Passing this bill will ensure that we can continue to provide access to life-saving treatment and care across the country,” said Enzi, Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

“This bill ensures that federal funds will be spent effectively and will be distributed to areas that need help the most. We are determined to fight the epidemic of today, not yesterday, which means redirecting funds to areas of the country with rising numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS. We have to make sure that the money follows the patients.”

The bill approved today updates funding formulas and requires accurate and reliable data reporting. It encourages aggressive testing strategies and establishes a national HIV/AIDS testing goal of 5 million tests per year.

Enzi noted a recent Washington Post investigation that revealed troubling inadequacies in Washington, DC’s HIV/AIDS treatment programs, as well as widespread waste and fraud.

“It is clear we have more work to do on the way funds are distributed when HIV/AIDS rates are ten times the national average in Washington, DC and federal treatment dollars are vanishing in the shadow of the nation’s capitol. It is my hope that the House will quickly pass this bill to prevent any disruptions in the Ryan White Program,” said Enzi.

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