



### **Resolution in Appreciation for Beginning Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative**

**Whereas**, in the State of the Union Address on February 5, 2019, President Donald J. Trump announced the Administration’s goal to end the HIV epidemic in the United States within 10 years;

**Whereas**, Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative is the operational plan developed by agencies across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to pursue that goal. With its initial focus on the 48 counties, plus Washington, DC, and San Juan, PR, where greater than 50 percent of HIV diagnoses occur, and on seven states with a substantial number of HIV diagnoses in rural areas, EHE seeks to reduce new HIV infections by 75 percent by 2025 and 90 percent by 2030 through ramping up HIV testing, increasing viral suppression through treatment, and improving access to HIV prevention services, including PrEP;

**Whereas**, the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, led by the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), quickly embarked on laying the foundation to begin the effort and organized federal agencies and their leaders to begin implementation of this monumental effort. In order to pilot EHE, HHS dedicated existing resources to four jumpstart jurisdictions;

**Whereas**, in December 2019, with bipartisan support, the U.S Congress passed, and the President signed into law, a spending package for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 that included \$267 million for EHE activities across federal agencies to be distributed to EHE priority jurisdictions;

**Whereas**, the ASH, federal agencies, and PACHA initiated listening engagements in Phase 1 jurisdictions to hear from people living with and affected by HIV, community-based and serving organizations, along with state and local governments on how to best implement the EHE initiative to meet their needs and achieve the goals of the EHE.

**Whereas**, prioritized jurisdictions were provided resources to develop community plans to implement EHE efforts in their localities;

**Whereas**, agencies such as the CDC, HRSA, and NIH developed multiyear funding announcements to carry out increased testing, treatment, and PrEP programs which was later distributed to state and local governments, along with community-based organizations;

**Whereas**, HHS partnered with Gilead Sciences, Inc. and a network of pharmacies to set up the “Ready, Set, PrEP” (RSP) program to provide PrEP medications for free to uninsured individuals throughout the United States;

**Whereas**, on February 10, 2020, the White House released the President’s Fiscal Year 2021 Federal Budget proposal, which includes \$716 million for the second year of the multiyear EHE initiative in order to ramp up EHE activities;

Passed unanimously on December 2, 2020



**Whereas**, the ASH and the implementing agencies, have launched America’s HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard (AHEAD), an online HIV data visualization tool to track national progress in eliminating the HIV epidemic by 2030;

**Whereas**, the broad HIV community along with state and local governments are committed and focused on achieving the goals outlined in the EHE initiative;

**Whereas**, the ASH has released a draft of the HIV National Strategic Plan for the United States: A Roadmap to End the HIV Epidemic, that includes ambitious targets and indicators for the entire country;

**Whereas**, PACHA has provided advice to the Secretary over the past two years on ways in which the EHE can be implemented and improved and have stated when the Council has disagreed with certain administration policies and actions;

**Whereas**, the foundation developed in EHE is based on sound science advanced by HIV community leaders and is exactly what is needed to end HIV and should be continued in future years, and improved upon, as appropriate;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the PACHA extends its great appreciation to HHS Secretary Alex Azar; ADM Brett P. Giroir, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health; Anthony Fauci, MD, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health; Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Thomas J. Engels, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration; Elinore F. McCance-Katz, MD, PhD, Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; RADM Michael D. Weahkee, Director of the Indian Health Service, for their roles in conceptualizing the EHE initiative and extends warm gratitude for their leadership with this historic effort;

**Be it further resolved** that PACHA extends the same level of appreciation and gratitude to all the staff of the federal agencies who have dedicated their time, expertise, energy, and enthusiasm to developing and implementing EHE. Without their steadfast commitment, the foundation that has been laid and the progress that has occurred to date would not have been possible.