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August 1, 2007

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
U.S. House of Representatives
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Engel and Representative Ros-Lehtinen,

On behalf of women, children, youth and families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and their health care providers, AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families support the introduction and passage of the Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) in the 110th Congress. We thank you for being an original co-sponsor of this legislation as it is extremely important for states to offer Medicaid coverage to low-income individuals currently living with HIV, before they are diagnosed with AIDS. The passage of ETHA would help thousands of HIV-positive women, children, and youth receive the care and treatment they need through Medicaid at an early stage of their disease, therefore preventing their disease from progressing further.

Keeping women, children, and youth living with HIV healthy by meeting their care and treatment needs early on in their disease, rather than following an AIDS diagnosis, is cost-effective and a sound investment in public health. We support the introduction and passage of ETHA so that states can be provided the option of amending their Medicaid eligibility requirements to cover uninsured, low income individuals living with HIV.

Founded in 1994, AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families is the national training, advocacy, and education organization representing women, children, youth and families living with and affected by HIV, and their health care providers. Should you have questions, please contact Diana Bruce, AIDS Alliance's Director of Policy and Government Affairs, at (202) 785-3564 x25 or dbruce@aids-alliance.org.

Sincerely,

Alelia Munroe
President

David C. Harvey
Executive Director