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June 10, 2021

Harold Phillips
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On behalf of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) Board of Directors, I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as the Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. HIVMA represents nearly 5,000 physicians and other health care professionals providing HIV prevention and care and conducting research in communities across the country. We were excited to learn of your appointment and write to offer our strong support to you in your new role. **We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to accelerate the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative and support implementation of the HIV National Strategic Plan.**

With your extensive experience in public health and public service, including as the chief operating officer of the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy at the Department of Health and Human Services and in leadership roles at the Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau, you are uniquely qualified and positioned to successfully lead efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States.

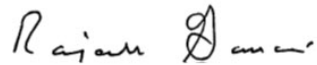
As you know well, we are at a pivotal moment in those efforts. We still do not know the full extent of the COVID-19 pandemic's disruptions of HIV prevention and care, syringe services programs and other public health services on people with HIV and at risk for HIV. These disruptions were compounded for many people with HIV by the isolation and mental stress of the pandemic's public health mitigation strategies.

While we continue to develop more effective biomedical tools for HIV prevention and treatment, we also continue to fall short in addressing the persistent health inequities experienced by Black and Latinx Americans, transgender individuals, people who inject drugs and others in accessing and benefiting from these important advances. These inequities are worsened by shortages of qualified HIV clinicians, which are most pronounced in the Southern U.S.

The hardships of the pandemic also have brought about opportunities to transform HIV prevention and care delivery and to address health inequities on a scale that will benefit people with HIV and all Americans.

We look forward to working with you to leverage these opportunities and to address the challenges ahead to meet our shared goal of ending HIV as an epidemic in the U.S. Your staff may contact the HIVMA Executive Director Andrea Weddle at aweddle@hivma.org to schedule a meeting. Thank you for your leadership during this critical time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rajesh T. Gandhi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rajesh" and last name "Gandhi" clearly distinguishable.

Rajesh T. Gandhi, MD, FIDSA
Chair, HIVMA