

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Support Housing to Combat HIV/AIDS

Cosponsor H. Con. Res 427

Endorsed by the National AIDS Housing Coalition

Cosponsors: Crowley, Lee, McGovern, Serrano, Shays, Waxman

Dear Colleague:

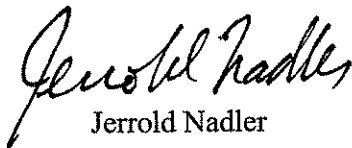
We are writing to ask that you join us in cosponsoring a resolution supporting the role of housing as an essential component of HIV prevention, treatment, and care. Senator Clinton has introduced this resolution in the Senate. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, recognized adequate and secure housing as a basic human right. Since then, a growing body of evidence has shown that the socioeconomic circumstances of individuals and groups are equally or even more important to health status than medical care and personal health behaviors.

The link between poverty and disparities in HIV risk and health outcomes is well established, and new research findings demonstrate the direct relationship between inadequate housing and greater risk of HIV infection, poor health outcomes and early death. Homeless and unstably housed persons are two to six times more likely to use hard drugs, share needles or exchange sex than similar persons with stable housing, as the lack of stable housing directly impacts the ability of people living in poverty to reduce HIV risk behaviors.

Despite these findings, housing as an effective strategy to combat HIV/AIDS has been largely ignored in policy discussions. We hope you will join us in bringing this issue into the dialogue as we address the AIDS crisis.

If you have any questions, or you would like to become a cosponsor of H.Con.Res. 427, please contact Jillian Youngblood (Nadler) office at ext. 5-5635, Naomi Seiler (Waxman) at ext. 5-3976, Katie Bruns (Shays) at ext. 5-5541, Kevin Casey (Crowley) at ext. 5-3965, or Christos Tsentas (Lee) at 5-2661.

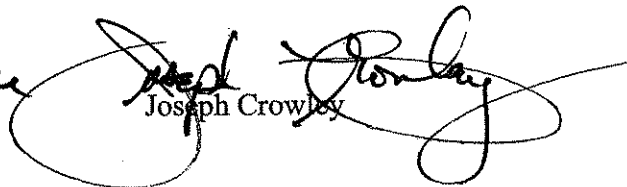
Sincerely,


Jerrold Nadler


Henry Waxman


Christopher Shays


Barbara Lee


Joseph Crowley