

**For Immediate Release**

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**EMERGENCY STOPGAP FUNDING FOR FLORIDA HIV PATIENTS SIGNED INTO LAW**

*Bipartisan proposal restores short-term access to life-saving meds for 12,000 Floridians*

**Orlando, FL** - Today, the Florida legislature's emergency stopgap funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program ([HB 697](#)) was signed into law. This \$30.9 million in emergency funding restores eligibility to 400% federal poverty level in response to draconian cuts imposed by the Florida Department of Health earlier this year. For decades, the ADAP program has offered life-saving medications and premium assistance to low-income Floridians who typically face thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket drug costs without support from the program.

This bridge funding maintains 400% FPL eligibility through June 30th while the legislature continues to put together a budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

**Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith** offered the following statement following the signing of the bill:

*"This \$30.9 million in emergency funding will put lifesaving HIV medications back in the hands of more than 12,000 Floridians. That only happened because patients and advocates spoke out and demanded action."*

*"I'm grateful to the advocates and the bipartisan group of lawmakers who came together quickly to deliver this short-term fix. But let's be clear, this is only a bridge. We need a long-term solution that guarantees consistent, uninterrupted access to treatment. The Legislature and the DOH must pursue every available option to keep the program solvent, including Medicaid waiver programs, alternative insurance strategies that maximize rebates, and other cost-controlling measures."*

*"Floridians living with HIV should never have to wonder if their medication will be there tomorrow. Access to treatment is not optional, it's a matter of life and death."*

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Senator Smith's [full statement](#) on Instagram.

Watch Senator Smith [debate in favor of HB 697](#).