



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

For Immediate Release

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Statement: The AIDS Institute Applauds Issuance of “HCV Guidance” and launch of website

Tampa, Fla. – The AIDS Institute (TAI) today issued the following statement applauding the recent joint announcement by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSDA) on the issuance of their “HCV Guidance” and the launch of their website: <http://hcvguidelines.org>

“The testing guidelines, which are an essential part of this Guidance, are consistent with those released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in 2012 and the US Preventive Services Task Force just last year,” said **Michael Ruppal, Executive Director of TAI.**

Ruppal added, “The timing of this Guidance and launch of this website is exquisite. It’s arrival two weeks after Rep. Mia Jones filed Hepatitis C testing legislation (HB465) in the Florida House of Representatives affirms her keen desire to assure that all Floridians, especially so-called ‘Baby Boomers,’ will have the opportunity to be tested for this ‘silent epidemic.’ It is estimated that over 300,000 Floridians are infected with Hepatitis C and that more than half do not know they are infected. Left untreated, hepatitis C can progress and result in serious liver disease, liver failure, liver cancer and death.”

Michelle Scavnicky, Director of Education at TAI continued, “The fact that the CDC, Task Force and these two prestigious physician groups at the forefront of managing hepatitis have aligned is outstanding. This makes for a compelling case for the Florida Legislature and Governor to assure the Hepatitis C testing legislation quickly moves through the Committee process, is voted for approval and becomes law on July 1, 2014.”

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The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit organization that promotes action for social change through research, public policy, advocacy and education. The AIDS Institute has expanded its vision to become a leading national nonprofit AIDS agency with offices in Tampa, Florida and Washington, DC. Affiliated with the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Medicine at the University of South Florida College of Medicine, The AIDS Institute remains focused on HIV/AIDS while incorporating work on related healthcare issues, including Hepatitis.