

Washington, DC – Today, by an overwhelming and bi-partisan majority, the House of Representatives approved funding for the HIV/AIDS treatment. The [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 \(S 1793\)](#) will extend funding for a host of treatment and research programs focused on HIV and AIDS. **Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20)**, who co-sponsored [related legislation in the House](#), issued the following statement on the vote.

“HIV/AIDS has taken the lives of more than half a million Americans, and more than one million Americans are living with HIV today. It is important that we support treatment programs for those Americans who are already infected and vital that we support the research that can help to prevent the spread of this deadly disease. I am proud to have joined with so many of my colleagues in voting to pass such important legislation.

Since its establishment in 1990, the [Ryan White Program](#) has presented a coordinated effort between the federal and state governments to combat the scourge of HIV/AIDS. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 550,000 Americans have died due to their infection with AIDS, and fully one-fifth of the 1.1 million now living with the virus don't know that they're infected. More than [55,000 new cases are reported every year](#). With [78,828 reported cases of HIV/AIDS infection](#), Texas is one of the hardest hit states in the country. The Ryan White Program plays an integral role in helping to address this problem, with the area surrounding San Antonio having received \$7 million in funding in 2009.

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