Opportunity for All: Supporting the LGBT Community

A Roadmap for Growth, Opportunity, and Fiscal Responsibility: The President’s Budget provides a roadmap for accelerating economic growth, expanding opportunity for all Americans, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. It invests in infrastructure, job training, preschool, and pro-work tax cuts, while reducing deficits through health, tax, and immigration reform.

Builds on Bipartisan Progress: The Budget adheres to the 2015 spending levels agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act and shows the choices the President would make at those levels. But it also shows how to build on this progress to realize the nation’s full potential with a fully paid for $56 billion Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, split evenly between defense and non-defense priorities.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT’S BUDGET DELIVERS:

• Stronger Growth and Job Creation:
  o Advanced manufacturing – Invests in American innovation and strengthens our manufacturing base, including a national network of 45 manufacturing institutes.
  o Research and innovation – Supports ground-breaking research to fight disease, protect the environment, and develop new technologies, and makes permanent the R&D Tax Credit.
  o Pro-growth infrastructure – Lays out an ambitious, four-year $302 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal paid for with transition revenue from pro-growth business tax reform.
  o Government reform – Promotes government management that delivers improved services that are more effective, efficient, and supportive of economic growth.

• Opportunity for All:
  o Tax cuts for working Americans – Doubles the maximum value of the childless worker EITC to build on the EITC’s success in encouraging people to enter the workforce and reducing poverty; improves tax benefits that help middle-class and working families pay for child care and college and save for retirement.
  o Preschool for all – Invests in the President’s vision of making access to high-quality preschool available to every four-year-old child.
  o Job-driven training – Invests in new efforts to drive greater performance and innovation in workforce training to equip workers with skills that match the needs of employers.

• Fiscal Responsibility:
  o Continues historic progress in slowing health care cost growth – Builds on the savings and reforms in the Affordable Care Act with additional measures to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid, slow health care cost growth, and improve the quality of care.
  o Pro-growth tax reform – Curbs inefficient and unfair tax breaks that benefit the wealthiest, and ensures that everyone is paying their fair share.
  o Immigration reform – Supports comprehensive reform of our broken immigration system, which independent economists say will grow our economy and shrink our deficits.
  o Further reduces the deficit and debt – By paying for new investments and tackling our true fiscal challenges, reduces deficits to 1.6 percent of GDP by 2024, and stabilizes debt as a share of the economy by 2015 and puts it on a declining path after that.

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The Budget supports and expands opportunity for the LGBT community by:

**Expanding Access to Health Coverage.** The Affordable Care Act ensures that Americans have secure, stable, and affordable insurance. As of January Insurance companies are no longer able to discriminate against consumers due to pre-existing conditions, and because of the law, insurers can no longer turn someone away just because he or she is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

**Addressing Health Care Disparities.** The Budget supports community effort to focus on prevention, including using evidence-based interventions to address tobacco control, obesity prevention, and better nutrition and physical activity. The Budget also invests in expanding the health care workforce, as well as investing in community health centers to provide primary care services in communities across the country. And continuing efforts to improve data collection on health disparities will help policymakers have the knowledge and tools they need to continue to address the health needs and concerns of the LGBT community.

**Civil Rights Enforcement and Hate Crime Prevention.** The Budget supports activities at the Department of Justice to ensure the protection of civil rights. The Budget provides additional resources for the Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS) to respond to alleged hate crimes on the basis of race, color, or national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

**Improving Access to Services under the Violence Against Women Act.** The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), signed by President Obama in 2013, prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in VAWA funded programs and improves access to services in the STOP grant program. The Budget includes $423 million in Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women grants and assistance to support victims of violence, including LGBT victims of domestic violence.

**Continuing Progress Toward Ending Homelessness.** The Budget provides $2.4 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Homeless Assistance Grants, $301 million above the 2014 enacted level. This funding supports new permanent supportive housing units and maintains over 330,000 HUD-funded beds that assist the homeless Nationwide. Through this investment as well as collaborative partnerships with local governments, non-profit organizations, and among Federal agencies, the Administration will continue to make progress towards the President's ambitious goals to end homelessness across the country. To advance the goal of ending youth homelessness by 2020, Federal agencies have partnered to develop and promote a research-informed framework that focuses on improving data quality and improving service capacity to support highly vulnerable homeless youth, including LGBTQ youth, youth involved in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, and pregnant and parenting youth.

**Expanding Access to HIV/AIDS Treatment, Care, and Prevention.** The Budget expands access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment activities and supports the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and HIV Care Continuum Initiative to reduce HIV incidence, increase access to care, and reduce HIV-related health disparities. The Budget invests $2.3 billion in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program to provide treatment and care completion services for people living with HIV, which includes $900 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program to ensure that people living with HIV have access to life-saving antiretroviral medications. The Budget also invests $1.1 billion for CDC HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Tuberculosis, and Viral Hepatitis activities, and aligns HIV funding
with the epidemic by requiring public health departments to target resources where the epidemic is most concentrated.

**Supporting Housing Assistance for People Living with HIV/AIDS.** The Budget provides $332 million for HUD’s Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program to address housing needs among people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The program provides States and localities with the resources to create comprehensive strategies for providing housing assistance that gives patients the stability needed for effective treatment. In partnership with Federal agencies through the HIV Care Continuum, HUD is working to improve outcomes that promote greater achievements in viral suppression through the coordination and alignment of housing support with medical care.

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