

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2009

**Cosponsor the Routine HIV  
Screening Coverage Act**

Dear Colleague:

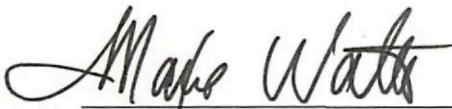
We are writing to urge you to cosponsor H.R. 2137, the Routine HIV Screening Coverage Act, which would require health insurance plans to cover routine HIV tests.

There are over one million Americans living with HIV/AIDS in the United States today, and almost one quarter of them do not know they are infected. Many of these Americans do not fall into high risk categories. Women, for example, now account for 27% of new AIDS cases, and teen girls account for 39% of new AIDS cases among teenagers. African Americans account for about half of new AIDS cases, and Hispanic Americans account for 19%. Approximately 70% of new AIDS cases are people of color.

Routine screening would allow individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are not in high risk categories to find out about their infection, begin life-extending treatments, and avoid spreading the virus to others. Unfortunately, standard health insurance plans generally cover HIV screening when there are clinical indications of infection or when there are known risk factors present. The Routine HIV Screening Coverage Act would require health insurance plans to cover routine HIV tests under the same terms and conditions as other routine health screenings.

We hope you will join us in supporting the Routine HIV Screening Coverage Act. If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact Kathleen Sengstock of Congresswoman Waters' staff at x52201.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters



Fortney Pete Stark

Donna Christensen

Barney Frank

Barbara Lee

Gregory W. Meeks