August 6, 2025

Dear Dr. Sax and Editorial Team,

On behalf of our authorship team, I am pleased to present our manuscript titled: “The Potential Effect of Ending CDC Funding for HIV Tests: A Modeling Study in 18 States” for consideration as a major article in Clinical Infectious Diseases. Our analysis uses as the Johns Hopkins Epidemiologic and Economic Model, a validated, dynamic, compartmental model of HIV transmission, to consider the potential impact removing CDC funding for HIV testing in the United States.

In our analysis, we simulate state-level HIV epidemics across 18 states across three scenarios where all CDC-funded HIV testing ends or is interrupted, and project the number of excess incident HIV infections compared to a scenario where CDC-funded testing continues uninterrupted. We project 13,000 additional infections across these 18 states by 2030 if all funding ends, a 10% increase. We also project significant state-level variation, with greater increases in incidence among states with more rural HIV epidemics and states that utilize more CDC-funded HIV testing to begin with.

A recently released White House 2026 budget proposal eliminates the CDC’s HIV prevention programs, which support most CDC-funded HIV tests. While this budget has not been passed, we believe it raises the salience of the modeling question answered here. We think that the findings here will be of broad interest to the readers of the Clinical Infectious Disease, and specifically to clinicians, public health officials and policymakers involved in HIV care in the United States. This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors have read, approved and contributed to this manuscript.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you when a decision has been made.

Sincerely yours,

Ruchita Balasubramanian, MPhil

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