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APLA Health Public Statement on the 2016 Election Results

The long and divisive 2016 election has ended. We now face a new president and a new congress with enormous uncertainty. During the campaign, President-elect Trump and many now in Congress promised to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This move would undermine California's unprecedented expansion of health care coverage over the past several years, including the expansion of the state's Medi-Cal program for millions of low-income individuals. This would roll back progress and threaten the safety and well-being of vulnerable communities everywhere. Understandably, many people are experiencing intense feelings of anxiety and concern about the future of health care in this country.

APLA Health also has a promise to keep – and that is to continue the fight for health care equity and to promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities as well as people living with and affected by HIV. We will be doing everything we can to fulfill that promise. With your help we will work locally, in Sacramento and in Washington to make sure that health care remains a right and not a privilege, that underserved populations receive high-quality and culturally competent health care, and that no one is denied access to the care they deserve. We will also continue fighting for all Americans to be treated with respect regardless of race, immigration status, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

APLA Health and experts around the world know that we now have the tools to bring the AIDS epidemic to an end. Tremendous work has been done over the past several years to increase access to treatment for people living with HIV and expand access to HIV prevention services, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), for those who are HIV-negative. APLA Health will not let misguided political promises derail the progress we have achieved or keep us from achieving an AIDS-free generation. We pledge to do everything in our power to keep moving forward and we ask for your continued support in this fight no matter the challenges we confront.

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APLA Health's mission is to achieve health care equity and promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV. We are a nonprofit, federally qualified health center serving more than 14,000 people annually. We provide 20 different services from 15 locations throughout Los Angeles County, including: medical, dental, and behavioral health care; PrEP counseling and management; health

education and HIV prevention; and STD screening and treatment. For people living with HIV, we offer housing support; benefits counseling; home health care; and the Vance North Necessities of Life Program food pantries; among several other critically needed services. Additionally, we are leaders in advocating for policy and legislation that positively impacts the LGBT and HIV communities, provide capacity-building assistance to health departments across the country, and conduct community-based research on issues affecting the communities we serve. For more information, please visit us at aplahealth.org.