

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (Member of Congress),

On April 27-29, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), the Treatment Access Expansion Project and AIDSWatch participants from across the country will be meeting with you to discuss critical legislative and funding issues that face people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States and those vulnerable to becoming infected with HIV.

All of us working in the fight against AIDS urge you to actively support the legislative and funding priorities of this year's AIDSWatch. Our priorities for 2009 include:

- The development and implementation of a **national AIDS strategy** that is comprehensive and outcomes focused. Please support funding for this important endeavor through the fiscal year 2010 appropriations process.
- Health care reform that increases **access to quality health care and lifesaving medications** for people living with HIV/AIDS. Please support and pass the Early Treatment for HIV Act, so that HIV-positive individuals can become eligible for Medicaid. Please also allow AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) expenditures to count toward Medicare true out of pocket (TrOOP) costs.
- Prevention efforts aimed to **dramatically reduce new HIV infection rates**. Please support legislation to lift the ban on using federal funds for syringe exchange programs. Stop funding ineffective and potentially harmful abstinence-only education programs and instead create a funding stream for comprehensive sexual education. Please support comprehensive treatment, prevention and condom distribution efforts in prisons.
- **Extension of the Ryan White CARE Act**. The Ryan White CARE Act is set to expire, so please support a three-year extension of this lifesaving program with minimal changes.
- Continued **commitment to a bold HIV/AIDS research agenda**. Please support increased funding for the National Institutes of Health so that innovative treatment, prevention and vaccine research can continue. Please also support and pass the Microbicide Development Act.
- Funding of Ryan White Programs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS, the Minority AIDS Initiative, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services and the National Institutes of Health. We have been faced with a growing epidemic at home, yet we lack new federal monies to combat the domestic crisis. We need Congress and the new president to provide much-needed **fiscal relief for HIV/AIDS programs**.

Thank you for your attention to the AIDSWatch 2009 agenda. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kali Lindsey, vice president for federal government affairs, at [klindsey@napwa.org](mailto:klindsey@napwa.org) or at 240.247.1019.

Sincerely,

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(Include your name and contact information below.)

Visit [usa.gov/contact/elected.shtml](http://usa.gov/contact/elected.shtml) to find contact information for your representatives.

[TEAR OFF AND DELIVER TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE]