

The ADAP Coalition

July X, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations we are writing to urge your support for increased funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) in the FY2012 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. ADAPs need at least a \$106 million increase to continue to serve the thousands of new clients entering the programs every year. As you are aware, ADAPs provide HIV-related medications to under insured and uninsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. We applaud the Committee's past support for ADAP and are especially appreciative of the \$50 million increase to ADAPs in FY2011. However, ADAP waiting lists continue to grow at an astronomical rate.

In January of this year, there were 4,200 people on waiting lists. As of July 15, 2011 the number more than doubled to 8,689 people in 13 states waiting for lifesaving medication. The states with the greatest number of individuals on their lists are Florida (3,558), Georgia (1669), Louisiana (886), South Carolina (858) and Virginia (837). Eighteen ADAPs, including 10 with current waiting lists, have instituted additional cost containment measures since April 1, 2011 such as reduced formularies and enrollment caps. Additionally, 13 ADAPs are considering implementing new or additional cost-containment measures by the end of ADAPs current fiscal year (March 31, 2012).

The federal share of the national ADAP budget has been declining from a high of 68 percent in FY2000 to the current share of 45 percent. State funding has been increasing over the same time from 17% in FY2000 to 19% in FY2010. In FY2010, states contributed \$346.2 million, or 19 percent, of the overall ADAP budget, an increase of 61% over FY 2009. While some states have maintained or increased funds to ADAPs, other states are reevaluating their support, they simply cannot keep up with the demand.

Meanwhile, the ADAP Crisis Task Force (ACTF) will continue to negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers for reduced drug prices on behalf of all ADAPs. Since the inception of the ACTF in 2003, the agreements have realized cumulative savings

for ADAPs of almost \$1.2 billion.

While we understand the gravity of the U.S. fiscal situation, we need to ensure that people with HIV and AIDS receive the vital medications that keep them alive. Again we ask that you grant our request for an increase of at least \$106 million to help solve this ADAP crisis. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to provide you with information detailing ADAPs' need for additional funding in Congress.

Sincerely,

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
The AIDS Institute
AIDS United
Village Care
The National Association of People with AIDS
Community Access National Network
HIV Dental Alliance, Atlanta GA
Project Inform
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The American Academy of HIV Medicine

cc: Senate Appropriations Members