

# AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO

February 26, 2002

## Executive Summary—2002 Candidate Questionnaire

### **Majority of Candidates Support Increased AIDS Funding, Healthcare Reforms**

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) recently surveyed Illinois candidates running in the upcoming primary election for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and state executive offices on an array of HIV/AIDS public policy issues.

Nearly half of all candidates who were sent the survey responded, including four candidates for governor: **Rep. Rod Blagojevich, Roland Burris, Paul Vallas, and Lieutenant Governor Corrine Wood**. While incumbent **Senator Dick Durbin** was the only senate candidate to complete the questionnaire, 30 candidates seeking election to the U.S. House of Representatives completed AFC's survey.

#### **Gubernatorial Candidates Side with AFC on Many Issues:**

- Rep. Rod Blagojevich was the only candidate to agree with AFC's position and support non-prescription selling of sterile syringes—a scientifically proven and nationally recognized HIV prevention strategy
- Agreeing with AFC, all four candidates support increased state funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, expanded Medicaid coverage for non-disabled HIV-positive individuals, and in-school health and sexuality education programs that are comprehensive, medically accurate, and that include HIV/STD prevention education
- Of the four candidates, Blagojevich was most in agreement with AFC (100%) while Roland Burris supported AFC positions the least (73%); Paul Vallas and Lt. Governor Corrine Wood each agreed with AFC positions on 82% of the questions

#### **Congressional Candidates Support Increased HIV/AIDS Funding:**

- 87% of federal respondents support increased federal funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, housing, and research programs
- 81% of federal respondents support increased funding and an expanded governmental role in promoting safe and affordable housing for low-income persons with AIDS
- 81% of federal respondents support increasing the U.S. contribution to the United Nations' Global AIDS Fund
- 74% of federal respondents support the Microbicide Development Act, which increases funding for the research and development of women-controlled HIV prevention products known as "microbicides"

#### **Candidates for Statewide Offices Show Support for Health Initiatives:**

- All state respondents support increasing state funding for substance abuse prevention, treatment, and harm reduction services
- All state respondents support access to free, anonymous and confidential HIV testing and counseling services, as well as legislation providing Medicaid coverage to parents of KidCare recipients

# AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO

*2002 Candidate Questionnaire*

## **Candidates Support Increased AIDS Funding, Healthcare Reforms**

A majority of candidates who responded to an AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) survey support increased government funding for AIDS-related services as well as reforms that would expand available healthcare services.

AFC sent the survey to 83 men and women facing primary elections in races for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and state constitutional offices. The survey elicited responses from 4 gubernatorial contenders, 31 candidates for Congress, and several candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general. While the AIDS Foundation of Chicago does not endorse candidates for public office, AFC conducts the survey to help inform AIDS advocates, those living with HIV/AIDS, and the general public about the HIV/AIDS policy positions taken by candidates for public office in Illinois. AFC's survey and positions begin on page 3 and the table of all survey responses is on pages 5-7.

### **Gubernatorial Candidates Side with AFC On Many but Not All Issues**

Of the six candidates for governor, AFC received responses from **Rep. Rod Blagojevich, Roland Burris, Paul Vallas, and Lieutenant Governor Corrine Wood**. All four candidates expressed strong support for efforts to expand the state Medicaid program to cover more people, including low-income people with HIV. In addition, they all voiced strong support for increased funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment services and for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provides life-extending medications to uninsured and low-income people living with HIV/AIDS.

Blagojevich was the only respondent to express unequivocal support for increased

access to sterile syringes—an important and effective HIV prevention strategy strongly endorsed by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Burris indicated opposition to such measures, and Vallas and Wood provided qualified support. Their positions on access to sterile syringes is noteworthy as Illinois is one of only five states to require prescriptions for syringe purchases, despite the overwhelming evidence that allowing adults to purchase sterile syringes at pharmacies without a prescription slows the spread of HIV without increasing illicit drug use.

### **Federal Candidates Recognize Need for Increased HIV/AIDS Funding**

AFC was pleased to learn that nearly all (87%) of the survey respondents running for Congress support increased government funding for AIDS prevention, care, housing, and research programs, a finding that is in sharp contrast with the position of the White House. In February, President George W. Bush recommended level funding for HIV prevention services and, for the second year in a row, requested level funding for the Ryan White CARE Act and the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative.

Additionally, nearly three-quarters (74%) of federal candidates support passage of the Microbicide Development Act (HR 2405 and S.1752), which would increase federal support for the development of HIV prevention substances ("microbicides"), that could be controlled by women and used in addition, or as an alternative to, condoms.

Most federal candidate-respondents (81%) expressed support for expanding the government's role in promoting safe and affordable housing for low-income people

with AIDS through increased funding of the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program, rent subsidies for people with disabilities, and incentives for affordable housing development. AFC applauds the candidates for recognizing that safe, affordable and stable housing is a critical component of quality health care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

### **Candidates Support Healthcare Reforms**

The vast majority (88%) of survey respondents endorsed efforts to increase access to healthcare. Of federal candidates, 90% indicated support for the Early Treatment of HIV Act, which would allow state Medicaid programs to cover low-income people living with HIV before the disease renders them disabled. Of candidates for statewide office, 78% support such a proposal. In addition, statewide candidates unanimously supported “Family Care” legislation to extend health care coverage to the uninsured parents of children enrolled in the KidCare program.

Both federal and state respondents (90% and 100%, respectively) support increased government funding for substance abuse prevention, treatment, and harm reduction services.

### **Candidates in Hotly Contested Congressional Races Share Views on HIV/AIDS**

In the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District—perhaps this year’s most closely watched race—a total of eight candidates vying for their party’s nomination responded to AFC’s survey. The contenders for the Democratic party (Peter Dagher, Rahm Emanuel, Nancy Kaszak, and Joseph Slovinc) were nearly twice as likely to agree with AFC’s positions than the three Republican candidates (William Hurley, Gene Kopowski, and Eugene Urbaszewski) or the Libertarian, Frank Gonzalez. Dagher and Kaszak each indicated 100% agreement with AFC-recommended positions, while Emanuel agreed with AFC on 92% of the questions, and Slovinc agreed with AFC 85% of the time.

Chicago’s northwest side voters will narrow the field in March and elect their new U.S. representative in November.

In Chicago’s other hotly contested district—the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District—three Democrats vying for the nomination returned AFC’s survey. Martin Castro and incumbent Luis Gutierrez each scored 100% in agreement with AFC, while John Holowinski agreed with AFC on 92% of the questions.

### **Perfect Scores**

The following 15 candidates indicated full support of AFC positions: U.S. Senate candidate Dick Durbin (D); gubernatorial candidate Rod Blagojevich (D); attorney general candidate Lisa Madigan (D); 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District candidate Bobby Rush (D); 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District candidate Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D); 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidates Martin Castro and Luis Gutierrez, (both Democrats); 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidates Peter Dagher and Nancy Kaszak, (both Democrats); 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidate Tom Berry (D); 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidate Danny Davis (D); 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidate Melissa Bean (D); 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidate Jan Schakowsky (D); 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidate Henry Perritt, Jr. (D); and 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidate Lane Evans (D).

Established in 1985 to provide central leadership in the fight against the epidemic, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) promotes sound HIV/AIDS public policy, funds HIV/AIDS care and prevention projects, and through its Service Providers Council, helps to coordinate the delivery of essential HIV/AIDS services. Learn more about AFC by visiting us online at [www.aidschicago.org](http://www.aidschicago.org).

*Released February 26, 2002 by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 411 S. Wells Street Suite 300, Chicago IL 60607.*

## Survey Questions & AFC Positions on Issues

The survey consisted of 18 questions: 6 posed to all candidates; 7 additional questions posed to candidates for federal offices; and 5 additional questions for candidates running for statewide offices. Respondents were asked to answer “yes,” “no,” or “don’t know” to each question. The questions and AFC’s answer and position on each issue follows.

### Questions for all candidates:

**A. Do you support free, anonymous, and confidential HIV antibody testing and counseling?** *AFC answer: YES.* Free, anonymous, and confidential testing offers an important opportunity to reach individuals at high-risk for HIV with vital prevention education as well as appropriate counseling and referral services for those who test HIV-positive.

**B. Do you support mandatory HIV testing under any circumstances?** *AFC answer: NO.* Although voluntary testing with counseling is a useful medical practice, mandatory HIV testing of individuals is a poor use of resources, breaches confidentiality, and may alienate individuals at high-risk for HIV from health care and treatment.

**C. Do you support policies providing access to sterile syringes as a strategy to reduce HIV transmission among injection drug users, their partners, and children?** *AFC answer: YES.* Increasing access to sterile syringes has been proven by more than 40 scientific studies to prevent the spread of HIV without increasing drug use. Model approaches include allowing pharmacies to sell sterile syringes to adults without prescriptions, syringe exchange programs, and other interventions within comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment programs for injection drug users.

**D. Do you support increased government funding for substance abuse prevention, treatment, and harm reduction services?** *AFC answer: YES.* Appropriate drug education and treatment services, including harm reduction strategies, are critical components of comprehensive approaches to preventing HIV transmission among people who use drugs and alcohol, as well as their sex partners and children.

**E. Do you believe that jails and prisons should segregate HIV-positive inmates from the rest of the incarcerated population?** *AFC answer: NO.* Segregation by HIV-status requires enormous resources that are better spent on HIV prevention and care services. Such segregation also promotes a false sense of security among inmates and corrections personnel, violates inmate confidentiality rights, and does little to stem the spread of HIV within correctional facilities.

**F. Do you believe that health care is a basic human right?** *AFC answer: YES.* Until health care is treated as a basic human right, those living with chronic and terminal illnesses will continue to face inordinate obstacles in accessing adequate and high quality health care services.

### Questions for candidates for federal offices:

**G. Do you support increased government funding for AIDS prevention, care, housing and research programs?** *AFC answer: YES.* A sound government response to the expanding AIDS epidemic requires adequate funding for prevention, care, housing and research programs. Unfortunately, greater investments are needed than those our government has committed to the fight against AIDS thus far.

**H. Do you support the Microbicide Development Act (HR 2405 and S.1752), which increases funding and coordination for the development of HIV prevention substances that could be women-controlled and offer an alternative to condoms?** *AFC answer: YES.* Alternatives to condoms are desperately needed, and particularly by women worldwide, who, too frequently, are unable to ensure that men use condoms.

**I. Do you support federal guidelines that create financial incentives for “abstinence-only” sex education, and disincentives for medically accurate, comprehensive “abstinence-plus” sex education?** *AFC answer: NO.* Scientific research proves that comprehensive and medically accurate, “abstinence-plus” education leads to reduced risk-behavior by young people, while there is NO evidence that “abstinence-only” education programs are effective.

**J. Do you support an expanded government role in promoting safe and affordable housing for low-income people with AIDS through increased funding of the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program, rent subsidies for people with disabilities, and incentives for affordable housing development?** *AFC answer: YES.* For people living with HIV/AIDS, safe, affordable, and stable housing is a matter of life or death. Housing instability and homelessness are also associated with increased risk for contracting HIV/AIDS, so a sound government response to the AIDS crisis requires a strong government effort against any crisis in affordable housing.

**K. Do you support public funding for evidence-based and scientifically supported HIV prevention services, such as needle exchange, that have been shown effective at preventing new cases of HIV transmission?** *AFC answer: YES.* Policymakers should support HIV prevention policies that have been proven effective and that are based on the most rigorous and up-to-date scientific research. Government supported programs must effectively reach at-risk populations and help stop the spread of HIV and other diseases.

**L. Do you support the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which would allow state Medicaid programs to cover economically eligible people living with HIV before the disease renders them totally disabled?** *AFC answer: YES.* The Early Treatment for HIV Act would save lives as well as money. By increasing access to healthcare for very low-income people living with HIV, serious illnesses that are deadly, disabling, and costly can be prevented, and more people will be able to remain working and productive.

**M. Do you support increasing the U.S. contribution to the United Nations' Global AIDS Fund?** *AFC answer: YES.* HIV/AIDS is decimating Sub-Saharan Africa and growing at alarming rates in India, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. In many African nations, more than 25% of the population is HIV-positive, yet only a few have access to life-saving AIDS medications. The U.S. must contribute a fair share of resources to battle this pandemic—which is not only exacting a tremendous toll in human life, but is threatening the economic infrastructure and political stability of many countries.

**Questions for candidates for Illinois state offices:**

**N. Do you support increasing state funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program so that low-income people living with HIV/AIDS will have adequate access to life-saving medications?** *AFC answer: YES.* The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) ensures that low-income Illinoisans with HIV/AIDS have access to needed HIV medications. State funds should be used to support this important program.

**O. Do you support comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate health education that includes sexuality and HIV prevention education for grades kindergarten through 12 in all Illinois public schools?** *AFC answer: YES.* Young people who receive comprehensive, age-appropriate, health, sexuality, and HIV/STD prevention education are more likely to delay having their first sexual experience than those who do not receive such education. Once sexually active, they are also more likely to use condoms than their counterparts who did not receive such comprehensive and accurate information.

**P. Would you support expanding Medicaid benefits for low-income, uninsured HIV-positive individuals who are not yet disabled?** *AFC answer: YES.* Current rules make it difficult for able-bodied, low-income people with HIV to qualify for Medicaid and receive the care they need to stay healthy as long as possible. Providing Medicaid coverage to non-disabled, HIV-positive individuals would have enormous benefits, allowing them to extend and improve their lives while saving the state money that would otherwise be spent on costly emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and disability benefits.

**Q. Do you support legislation allowing adults to purchase sterile syringes from pharmacies without a prescription?** *AFC answer: YES.* Access to sterile syringes at pharmacies without a prescription has been proven to prevent the spread of HIV without increasing drug use. Illinois is one of only five states to still require a prescription for the purchase of sterile syringes at pharmacies. Illinois' current and outdated policy has failed to curb rates of drug use while simultaneously contributing to high rates of HIV transmission among injection drug users, their sex partners, and children.

**R. Do you support "Family Care" legislation to extend healthcare coverage to the uninsured parents of children currently enrolled in the Kid Care program?** *AFC answer: YES.* Family Care will provide much needed health insurance coverage to approximately 200,000 low-income adults in Illinois, including many who are living with HIV.

2002 Candidate Questionnaire

**Candidate Responses to the Survey**

Responses to the survey are presented in the table beginning below. Based on information provided by the Illinois State Board of Elections, AFC sent questionnaires to primary candidates running in Illinois for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and Illinois State Executive Offices in the March primary election. The table reflects the complete list of races for which AFC received at least one completed questionnaire. Only where responding candidates are running unopposed are they the only candidate listed under their district. Where applicable, the incumbent candidates name is in bold. Party affiliation is included in parentheses: “D” for Democrat, “R” for Republican, and “L” for Libertarian.

Each time a candidate answer was in agreement with the policy endorsed by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, a “+” was entered in the box corresponding to the question. Likewise, a “-“ was entered for an answer that opposed AFC’s position, a “?” was assigned to every question answered with “don’t know,” and “n” signifies that no response was provided. Written responses to questions that could be determined as “yes,” “no,” or “I don’t know” answers were noted as such. Percentages that appear at the end of each row were calculated by dividing the number of times the candidate’s response matched the position of AFC by the total number of questions posed to that candidate.

**ILLINOIS STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

		(+)=supports AFC position (-)=opposes AFC position (?)=doesn't know (n)=no answer											
		*All Candidates*						*Illinois State Offices*					
		A	B	C	D	E	F	N	O	P	Q	R	
<b>GOVERNOR</b>													
Rod	Blagojevich (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Roland	Burriss (D)	+	+	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	73%
Patrick	O'Malley (R)												
Jim	Ryan (R)												
Paul	Vallas (D)	+	+	n	+	+	+	+	+	-	+		82%
Corinne	Wood (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	?	+		82%
<b>LUITENENT GOVERNOR</b>													
Carl	Hawkinson (R)												
F. Michael	Kelleher (D)	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	82%
Jack	McInerney (R)												
William	O'Connor (R)												
Charles	Owens (R)	+	-	-	+	?	+	n	-	n	-	+	36%
Pat	Quinn (D)	+	+	n	+	+	+	+	+	-	+		82%
Joyce	Washington (D)												
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>													
Joe	Birkett (R)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	-	+	+	73%
Bob	Coleman (R)												
Lisa	Madigan (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
John	Schimdt (D)												

**FEDERAL – UNITED STATES SENATE**

(+)=supports AFC position (-)=opposes AFC position (?)=doesn't know (n)=no answer

US Senate	* All Candidates *						* Federal Offices*							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L		M
<b>Richard Durbin (D)</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
John Cox (R)														
Jim Durkin (R)														
James Oberweis (R)														

**FEDERAL - UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

(+)=supports AFC position (-)=opposes AFC position (?)=doesn't know (n)=no answer

US House	* All Candidates *						* Federal Offices *							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L		M
<b>1st DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Bobby Rush (D)</b>							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Raymond Wardingley (R)														
<b>2nd DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D)</b>							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Yvonne Christian-Williams (D)							+	+	+	n	n	+	+	77%
Doug Nelson (R)							+	-	-	-	-	+	+	31%
Anthony Williams (D)							+	?	+	+	+	+	+	85%
<b>4th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Luis Gutierrez (D)</b>							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Martin Castro (D)							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
John Holowinski (D)							+	+	+	+	+	+	?	92%
Maggie Kohls (L)														
Anthony Lopez-Cisneros (R)							+	-	-	-	-	+	+	46%
Martin Pankau (L)														
Mark Augusti (R)														
<b>5th DISTRICT</b>														
Matt Beauchamp (L)														
Peter Dagher (D)							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Rahm Emanuel (D)							+	+	?	+	+	+	+	92%
Mark Fredrickson (D)														
Frank Gonzalez (L)							+	+	+	-	?	+		38%
Tom Hanson (R)														
William Hurley (R)							+	+	-	+	+	-		46%
Nancy Kaszak (D)							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Gene Kopowski (R)							+	-	+	+	+	+		62%
Ray Lear (D)														
Stanley Niziolek (D)														
Paul Rauner (D)														
Joseph Slovynec (D)							+	?	+	+	-	+		85%
Eugene Urbaszewski (R)							+	+	+	-	-	-		46%
<b>6th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Henry Hyde (R)</b>							+	?	-	+	-	+		46%
Tom Berry (D)							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%

**FEDERAL - UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

(+)=supports AFC position (-)=opposes AFC position (?)=doesn't know (n)=no answer

US House		* All Candidates *						* Federal Offices *						
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
<b>7th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Danny</b>	<b>Davis (D)</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Robert	Dallas (R)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Byron	Reed (R)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Mark	Tunney (R)	+	-	?	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	?
<b>8th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Philip</b>	<b>Crane (R)</b>													
Melissa	Bean (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>9th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Janice</b>	<b>Schakowsky (D)</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>10th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Mark</b>	<b>Kirk (R)</b>	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	?	+	+	+
Henry	Perritt, Jr. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>16th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Donald</b>	<b>Manzullo (R)</b>													
John	Kutsch (D)	+	?	+	+	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	+
<b>17th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>Lane</b>	<b>Evans (D)</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Peter	Calderone (R)													
Tony	Rees (R)													
<b>19th DISTRICT</b>														
<b>David</b>	<b>Phelps (D)</b>													
Vic	Roberts (D)	+	?	+	+	+	n	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>John</b>	<b>Shinkus (R)</b>													