

CARE Act Reauthorization Watch

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The Reauthorization Watch, produced by NASTAD, provides periodic updates on activities related to the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. Please see NASTAD's Reauthorization Resources [webpage](#) for more information.

Congressional Activities

Staff of both the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee remain committed to a bi-partisan, bi-cameral process of completing the bill. There is no definite timeline for draft legislation to emerge.

U.S. House of Representatives

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) [spoke](#) on the House floor on October 6 to highlight National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and to urge expeditious reauthorization of the CARE Act. Members who spoke were Representatives Hilda Solis (D-CA), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), and Ed Towns (D-NY).

Administration Activities

Severity Of Need Index Development

As previously reported, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has begun a [process](#) to develop a Severity Of Need For Core Services Index (SON). The SON is being developed for use in CARE Act awards that are based on demonstration of severe need rather than formulas based on AIDS cases. Title I Supplemental awards and ADAP Supplemental awards are based on severity of need. HRSA has assembled four work groups (associated costs, patient characteristics, area characteristics, and patient coverage) that include expert representation from Titles I and II on each work group. In addition to the SON, the workgroups are considering measures that would also be appropriate for the Severity of Need for Core Services Index (SNCSI) a cornerstone of the Administration's principles. The work groups participated in an all-day meeting on October 31, 2005. According to HRSA, the expert work group members are "to stay actively involved in the process of identifying the relevant data sources for each proposed severity of need measure

and evaluating whether each measure is meaningful, scientifically sound, and feasible for national use. Experts will contribute to written summaries of each measure examined. It is anticipated that there will be weekly conference calls between November 2005 and January 2006. In addition, once each of the work groups has completed their evaluation, there will be a second all day meeting held in the Washington D.C. area."

HHS Town Hall Meetings

The Office of HIV/AIDS Policy at the Department of Health and Human Services, led by Acting Director, Christopher Bates, has begun a series of events on Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Memphis and North Carolina. The events include meetings with faith leaders, town hall meetings, and tours of HIV clinics and AIDS service organizations.

CHACHSPT Meeting

The CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT) met in Washington, D.C. on October 19th and 20th. Marty McGeein, Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, provided the panel with a brief update on reauthorization and took questions to further clarify the Administration's principles. Reauthorization remains a priority for the Administration. Unfortunately, recent events have caused a delay in Congress in moving legislation forward.

A panel presentation on "President's Reauthorization Principles - Implementation and Technical Assistance" included [Jacqueline Muther](#) of the CAEAR Coalition and the Grady Health System Infectious Disease Program; [Laura Hanen](#) of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors; [Bill Arnold](#) of the Title II Community AIDS National Network; [Diana Bruce](#) of AIDS Alliance for Children Youth and Families; and [Terje Anderson](#) of the National Association of People with AIDS.

Public comment focused on reauthorization was provided by [Bill McColl](#) of AIDS Action, [Carl Schmid](#) of The AIDS Institute, and Robert Carroll of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care. Robert Nickerson of the New York City Mayor's office submitted five documents for the record. They are as follows: New York House delegation [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt; New York Senators' [letter](#) to Secretary Leavitt; HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York's [response](#) to the Administration's principles; 170 community organizations sign-on [letter](#) to Secretary Leavitt; and a Greater New York Hospital Association [letter](#) to Secretary Leavitt.

The CHACHSPT is drafting a letter to Secretary Leavitt to provide feedback on the President's principles.

Stakeholder Recommendations

Organizations continue to issue position papers providing recommendations for reauthorization. To view previously released positions, see NASTAD's Reauthorization Resources [webpage](#). Recently released positions are:

The [Ms. Foundation for Women](#) has issued a [10-point plan](#), developed by the National Women and AIDS Collective (NWAC) that calls on federal legislators and the public to make women a priority in the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The plan includes recommendations for reauthorization including allocation of 25 percent of all Ryan White CARE Act funds across all titles to community-based organizations that currently and historically have been led by and serve HIV-positive women and to expand representation on local Ryan White Planning Councils and other decision-making bodies to include women living with HIV/ AIDS.

[National Association of People With AIDS](#) Executive Director Terje Anderson issued an [analysis](#) of the CDC's recommendation to the ten states with code-based HIV reporting to switch to name reporting. The CARE Act requires the inclusion of HIV disease in award distribution formulas in FY2007.

[The American Academy of HIV Medicine](#) has developed [recommendations](#) specific to ADAP.

[The AIDS Foundation of Chicago](#) voiced [concern](#) over the Administration's principles. The AIDS Foundation also spearheaded a [letter](#), signed by over 80 Illinois organizations, to Members of Congress asking that they increase funding for and reauthorize the CARE Act.

[AIDS Action](#) recently released new [recommendations](#) on creating an "Effective, Efficient and Equitable" CARE Act.

Community Activities



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On October 14th, the [Ryan White ACTION Campaign](#) joined [Bienestar Human Services](#) in hosting a Latino [town hall meeting](#) in East Los Angeles in support of the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. Taking place as part of activities recognizing [National Latino AIDS Awareness Day](#), the town hall meeting brought together Hispanic government leaders, patients, health care practitioners and providers to highlight the impact of the Ryan White CARE Act on the Latino community. The town hall meeting was covered by a number of media outlets including television and radio, including the [Ventura County Star](#).

On October 19th, Former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher and Jeanne White-Ginder, mother of the late Ryan White, took part in a satellite media tour to highlight the importance of reauthorization of the CARE Act. They were interviewed by 16 media outlets, including [CNN](#), American Urban Radio Network, the nation's largest black radio news network, and many local television and radio.



On October 20th, the [Campaign 2 End AIDS](#) (C2EA) caravans began their travel across the country. The Campaign will converge on Washington, D.C. on November 5th for "Four Days of Action to End AIDS." Included in the Campaign's messages is the importance of reauthorization and full funding for the CARE Act.

Please forward the *Reauthorization Watch* to interested colleagues. To be added or removed from our email distribution list, please email [Ann Lefert](#).

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