



July 28, 2005

NYAC RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S REAUTHORIZATION PRINCIPLES

In response to President Bush's recently released Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Principles, NYAC does not envision a time when we would endorse the President's specific proposals, as there are many aspects of the principles (some of which are outlined below) that we would find extremely injurious to the existing HIV/AIDS care infrastructure in the State of New York.

While we will continue to push the Bush Administration to support a CARE Act that is reauthorized in a manner beneficial to the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS, NYAC vows to devote more energy and resources to working with both houses of Congress. The following represent some of our concerns regarding the recently released principles:

- We are inalterably opposed to any measurement index that would penalize jurisdictions that have been successful in advocating for supplemental resources from their state and local governments. We are justifiably proud of the tireless work our community has done to sound the alarm about the catastrophic consequences of HIV/AIDS in New York to policy makers in Albany and in New York City Hall. We are hopeful that we can, to some extent, serve as a model for other underserved and heavily impacted jurisdictions, and stand ready to assist them with advocacy in their respective state capitols, city halls and town councils to the greatest extent possible.
- We are deeply concerned with the proposal to require that 75% of CARE Act resources be cordoned off to be solely used for "core medical services." Aside from the ambiguous nature of the term "core medical services," we feel strongly that it is local jurisdictions that are best positioned to allocate these monies in accordance with the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS in their respective jurisdictions. While we are aware that many jurisdictions already do meet this standard, we are insistent that there remain a place for those jurisdictions that, for whatever reason, do not. We are also fearful about what such a proposal reveals about the troubling lack of prioritization of the essential support services that are critical to ensuring that people are able to access these "core medical services."
- We strongly oppose any effort to eliminate the 'hold harmless' provisions contained within the act. We do support a carefully crafted proposal to alter this formula, but we



feel very strongly that this provision was put in place to ensure continuity in services even in the face of fluctuating case loads from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. What the President proposes would amount to a wholesale destabilization of the HIV/AIDS Care infrastructure in many jurisdictions.

As an organization historically involved in both HIV prevention and the treatment community planning process, we are strongly opposed to divesting such bodies of their power and designating them as "advisory" in nature. Innovative partnerships between government and the community ought to be the very type of coalition the Federal government should be looking to increase its support for, rather than to disempower.

Above are a few of the salient points with which we must, regrettably, disagree with the President. We will be working very hard over the next sixty to ninety days to press our case with the members of Congress who will be charged with ultimately converting principles into legislative language. We are hopeful that we can work together, in a bipartisan fashion, towards the goal of ensuring that a fully funded, functional, Ryan White Care Act continues to be available for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

*In August, NYAC will be holding a federal briefing for all interested members regarding CARE Act Reauthorization - Stay tuned for details and watch for future issues of our "News from DC" publication. NYAC will further examine the Bush Administration's principles and will offer further analysis in our soon-to-be-released reauthorization position paper.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT:
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