



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 15, 2006

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan  
Speaker  
Illinois House of Representatives  
State House Room 300  
Springfield IL 62706

Dear Speaker Madigan:

We, the undersigned, urge you to include an additional \$1 million increase for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in the FY 2007 state budget. Governor Blagojevich proposed a \$2 million increase in his proposed budget, but we request an additional \$1 million on top of the Governor's request, for a total increase of \$3 million. In FY06, Illinois appropriated \$10.1 million in GRF for ADAP; in FY07, \$13.1 million is needed to sustain services for current clients and meet the needs of new clients. Funding for the program has not been increased in two years.

As you know, ADAP provides HIV/AIDS drugs to low-income people with HIV. ADAP is a cost-effective program that keeps people with HIV healthy and productive, keeps them out of the emergency room, and keeps them off Medicaid. About 3,300 low-income people every month depend on ADAP for access to life-saving medications. Reflecting national trends in the epidemic, more than two-thirds of clients are people of color. About 40% of clients are African-American and 24% are Latino, while the remaining 34% are White and 2% are from other ethnic or racial backgrounds

There are currently an estimated 40,000 to 42,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Illinois, and an estimated 1,600 new HIV infections occur in Illinois each year. Illinois ranks sixth in the nation for HIV/AIDS cases, and the number of people who need ADAP services continues to grow.

Program costs are increasing steadily. The number of clients needing ADAP increased 13% from 2004 to 2005. The average number of prescriptions filled per month and the average cost per prescription have increased 10%.

Governor Blagojevich has requested a \$2 million increase for the program. Although we thank Gov. Blagojevich for proposing this increase, we are concerned that it is inadequate. A \$3 million increase is needed because client growth rates will be higher than the 3.1% rate projected by the Illinois Department of Public Health, and savings from very-low-income clients transitioning to the Medicare drug program will be lower than anticipated. In addition, funding is needed to increase access to more advanced—and costly—anti-HIV drugs on the ADAP formulary. The Administration proposes to make up any GRF shortfall by spending federal funds intended for FY 08, but this will worsen the program's long-term fiscal outlook.

People with HIV need a program that can provide uninterrupted access to lifesaving HIV treatments that, once begun, must be continued for a lifetime. Interruptions in treatment jeopardize the health of people with HIV, can result in drug resistance, and serious and lasting damage to the immune system. In order to protect the public health and improve the lives of low-income people with HIV, we urge you to keep Illinois ADAP strong. Thank you for acting on this request.

Sincerely,

Sara Ferguson

Mark H. Beaman

Maria L. Bonino

[Signature]

Chuck Jenson

Mike Boland

Robert A. Hayes  
Mary E. Howe

[Signature]

Edward Cawelo

Joseph M. Lyons

[Signature] (100)

Ken Dunkin

Jack McQuinn

Mike Smith

Jan Beiser

John D. [unclear]

John [unclear]

John D. [unclear]

Douglas A. Howard

William Davis

John [unclear]

Elizabeth [unclear]

Eileen [unclear]

Monique Davis

Margaret [unclear]

Erin [unclear]

Karen [unclear]

[unclear]

Li Ch [unclear]

Caren M. [unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

Kathleen A. [unclear]

Arthur [unclear]

Susan [unclear]

Robert [unclear]

William [unclear]

[unclear]

Walt Di

Ken Denkin

Chuck Johnson

Wyvetter H. Young

Arthur Bradley

George Smith

John Smith

John Smith

Jack Martin

Norma Johnson

Patricia Scherer

Karen May

John Smith

John Smith

John Kelly

Julie Hamon

John Smith

Angela Lynn Frazier

Pete Belle

Kevin Joyce

Thomas Hall

John Smith

John Smith

John Smith

Bob

Bob Higgins

Carolyn H. Kame

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James M. Pelt

Aann Schrock

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**66 Representatives Signing the ADAP Letter to Speaker Madigan\***

**Democrats**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Acevedo      | 27. Jakobsson  |
| 2. Beiser       | 28. Jefferson  |
| 3. Berrios      | 29. Joyce      |
| 4. Boland       | 30. Kelly      |
| 5. Bradley, R.  | 31. Lang       |
| 6. Burke        | 32. Lyons      |
| 7. Chapa LaVia  | 33. Mautino    |
| 8. Chavez       | 34. May        |
| 9. Collins      | 35. McGuire    |
| 10. Colvin      | 36. McKeon     |
| 11. D'Amico     | 37. Mendoza    |
| 12. Davis, M.   | 38. Miller     |
| 13. Davis, W.   | 39. Molaro     |
| 14. Delgado     | 40. Nekritz    |
| 15. Dunkin      | 41. Osterman   |
| 16. Feigenholtz | 42. Rita       |
| 17. Flowers     | 43. Ryg        |
| 18. Franks      | 44. Scully     |
| 19. Fritchey    | 45. Smith      |
| 20. Golar       | 46. Soto       |
| 21. Gordon      | 47. Turner     |
| 22. Graham      | 48. Verschoore |
| 23. Granberg    | 49. Washington |
| 24. Hamos       | 50. Yarborough |
| 25. Holbrook    | 51. Younge     |
| 26. Howard      |                |

**Republicans**

1. Beaubien
2. Bellock
3. Biggins
4. Coulson
5. Jenisch
6. Krause
7. McAuliffe
8. Mulligan
9. Munson
10. Pihos
11. Saviano
12. Schock
13. Tryon
14. Wait

*\*Includes one Representative whose signature was illegible.*