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**Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy Pushes for Efficient, Government Efforts
in Fight Against HIV/AIDS**

*Poster presentation at the XVIII International AIDS Conference to highlight community
and government strategies*

VIENNA, AUSTRIA – July 20, 2010 - The Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy will present their grassroots efforts in engaging high-level federal commitments in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the XVIII International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Vienna, Austria on Tuesday, July 20. The poster, “Advancing a more coordinated, accountable, and outcomes-oriented response through advocacy toward a National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States,” will be presented by David Munar and Chris Collins.

A grassroots effort was formed in 2007 by founding members of the Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy, which sought to change the way that Washington, D.C. and the federal government address and track the U.S. HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Coalition wanted to bring together federal resources to rally around a coordinated, outcomes-based and community-informed national strategy to combat the epidemic.

In order to raise visibility and secure community and government support, Coalition members engaged in advocacy-related activities including outreach and education to President Barack Obama’s transition team, to assist with development of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

“We realized the United States could do better in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and that we needed a far more coordinated, accountable and outcomes-oriented effort,” said Chris Collins, Vice President and Director of Policy of amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.

“The release of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy by the Obama administration marks a historic day for the HIV/AIDS community,” said David Munar, Vice President of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. “By implementing accountability and metrics, this will change how our government responds to HIV/AIDS.”

About Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy

The Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy is comprised of 500+ organizations and 2,400+ committed individuals. Our Coordinating Committee is made up of some of the most respected HIV/AIDS activists, policy makers and organizational leaders in the US. For more information visit www.nationalaidsstrategy.org.

For more information about David Munar’s involvement with the development of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, visit http://www.aidschicago.org/pdf/2010/media_7_13_10.pdf.

This press release discusses data presented by the Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy at IAC. One of many groups supporting the Coalition’s efforts, Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) has generously sponsored this press release as well as the poster and its primary author. BMS has no review or editorial discretion for this press release or the poster content.

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