

December 1, 2002

President George W. Bush
and
Members of Congress

Dear President Bush, Senators, and Representatives:

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, I am writing to urge you to respond forcefully to the HIV/AIDS pandemic at home and abroad. Consider:

- More than 100 Americans become infected with HIV everyday; 2 adolescents every hour
- AIDS is the leading cause of death for African Americans ages 25 to 44
- In 2001, 3 million people worldwide died from HIV/AIDS including 15,600 Americans
- AIDS has orphaned 14 million children worldwide: the equivalent to every U.S. child under age 5
- According to the National Intelligence Council, HIV cases worldwide could reach 100 million by 2010, destabilizing India, China, Russia, Nigeria, and Ethiopia

I urge you to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS by doing the following:

- **Support increased funding in FY03 and FY04 for domestic and international HIV/AIDS prevention, care, housing, and research programs.**
- **Pass legislation authorizing U.S. contributions to the Global AIDS Fund that are representative of our relative wealth and leadership role in the community of nations.**
- **Support science-based HIV prevention services that address the needs of high-risk men who have sex with men, sexually active women and youth, and substance users.**
- **Substantially increase funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program so that no American is denied life-saving HIV therapies; support passage of the Early Treatment for HIV Act.**
- **Increase funding for biomedical research of microbicides and HIV vaccines—new tools that could prevent HIV transmission.**
- **Provide no new funding for unproven and harmful abstinence-until-marriage programs, and promote the HIV prevention benefits of condom use.**

A reply is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,
A Concerned American

cc: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 411 S. Wells St., Ste. 300, Chicago, IL 60607 (FAX 312-922-2916)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Comments:

December 1, 2002

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
and
Members of the 93rd Illinois General Assembly

Dear Governor-Elect Blagojevich, State Senators, and Representatives:

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, I am writing to urge you to respond forcefully to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Illinois. Consider:

- An estimated 35,000 Illinoisans are living with HIV/AIDS
- Approximately 1,500 state residents become HIV infected each year
- More than 15,000 Illinoisans have died from AIDS since 1981
- Although African Americans represent only 15% of the total population, they make up more than 60% of recently diagnosed AIDS cases
- The number of people with AIDS in metropolitan Chicago increased by 300% from 1990 to 1999

I urge you to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS by doing the following:

- **Help dramatically reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission by passing legislation allowing adults to purchase and possess sterile syringes without a prescription.**
- **Invest an additional \$3 million in Illinois' AIDS Drug Assistance Program and HIV prevention account to avert hundreds of million of dollars in future healthcare costs.**
- **Restore HIV prevention funding for communities of color that Governor George Ryan eliminated with his line-item veto authority.**
- **Pursue efforts to expand Medicaid eligibility for people with HIV through the application of a federal waiver.**
- **Fully fund Family Care in order to provide healthcare coverage to more low-income parents, including at least 1,300 living with HIV.**
- **Enhance HIV prevention efforts in our schools by requiring that all sexuality education curricula provide medically accurate education.**

A reply is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Illinoisan

cc: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 411 S. Wells St., Ste. 300, Chicago, IL 60607 (FAX 312-922-2916)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Comments: