



The Title II Community
AIDS National Network
1775 "T" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Phone: (202) 588-1775

Fax: (202) 588-8868

Web: www.tiicann.org

Email: weaids@tiicann.org

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ETHA (Early Treatment for HIV Act)
(The Treatment Access Expansion Project)
(Early Treatment for HIV Act)
Cost-effective solutions to access to
HIV/AIDS care & treatments.

"MedicaidWatch"

Monthly newsletter for service
providers and HIV+ patients

**The ADAP-Acees to HIV Care
Educational Forums**

The DC ADAP-Access to Care Poky
Breakfast Series

Memberships

aaa+ ADAP Advocacy Association
The National ADAP Working Group
FAAP (Federal AIDS Policy Partnership)
FAAP Convening Group
RWCA Reauthorization Work Group
HIV/AIDS Medicaid/Medicare Work Group
ABAC (AIDS Budget & Appropriations Coalition)
HCAP (Hepatitis C Appropriations Partnership)
Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC)
The FDA Alliance
CCD (Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities)
Save ADAP, Inc

CEO: William E. Arnold
Director Public Policy:
Gary R. Rose JD
(3/07)

Chairmen John Dingle
2328 Rayburn
Washington, D.C. 20515-2215

Chairman Charles Rangel
2354 Rayburn House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Dingle and Rangel:

We'd like to associate ourselves with the letters from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities and the HIV advocacy organizations comprising the HIV Medicare-Medicaid Working Group in endorsing HR 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act.

In addition, we'd like to suggest two technical changes which would better affect the Committee's legislative goals:

Section 215 's language needs to be broadened to waive Part D cost-sharing also for those living in of state-licensed supervised group residences for which State Supplementary Payments (SSPs) are, or could be, payable under Section 1616 (e) of the Social Security Act.

This applies to group residential facilities below the level of Medicaid ICFs and nursing homes. Rent, room and board is paid by residents' OASDI, SSI, private pensions and---in most, but not all, states---specialized, extra-high State Supplementary Payments (SSPs) meant for group home rent, room and board. Eligibility and rent payment budgeting is handled by states by a blanket pre-assigning of all of residents' incomes (OASDI, SSI, any SSPs, private pensions, etc.) to go toward rent payment, except for a very small state-set personal needs allowance (PNA) for personal incidentals (toiletries, etc.). Hence, residents of group homes that qualify for such specialized, extra-high SSPs do not have any remaining income at all that's available to pay Part D (even Extra Help) cost-sharing: ALL their income---except for tiny PNA amounts---is already needed, dedicated to and being used to pay their rents.

All residents of such group homes--whether or not their state actually pays these specialized, extra high SSPs or whether or not they themselves actually receive such SSPs---should be exempted from all Part D cost-sharing. But this cost-sharing exemption should not apply to residents of commercial assisted living facilities that cater instead to a middle-class and wealthy clientele and don't qualify for SSPs.

Nationally, there are hundreds of thousands of disabled (often CMI and MR) and aged (very frail persons) with limited income in such facilities---many of whom are nonetheless somewhat above current state Medicaid, MSP and SSI income levels.

Section 217 would be much more effective if its Part D Extra Help cost-sharing cap were applied monthly rather than yearly: Low income disabled persons needing multiple prescriptions simply do not have sufficient cash flow, savings or credit to pay a whole year's worth---even of the low Part D Extra Help cost-sharing---before only then being finally exempted from further cost-sharing in the rest of a given year. They live on very small monthly disability or retirement checks; that's their total financial horizon; and thus only a monthly cost-sharing cap works effectively for them.

We endorse and deeply appreciate your efforts on behalf of vulnerable Americans.
Sincerely,

William E. Arnold
C.E.O.