

March 16, 2004

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  
*Sent Via Fax*

Dear Representative:

We are deeply troubled by the House Budget Resolution that calls for immediate and long-term cuts in funding for domestic discretionary and entitlement programs that are critical to providing care and treatment to people living with AIDS, preventing further spread of HIV disease and conducting research to eventually eradicate HIV disease.

We implore you to **OPPOSE** the following provisions:

- **Instructions that would require the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut \$2.2 billion** over the next five years from programs within its jurisdiction; cuts that are almost certainly going to come from the already strapped Medicaid program.
- Proposals to include **binding, five-year caps on discretionary spending that would result in funding levels that are \$120 billion below** the level needed simply to maintain current services.

The significant reductions that are being proposed through changes to the budget process such as five-year caps on discretionary and reductions in entitlement spending are unacceptable. They seriously threaten advancements made in the research, prevention, care and treatment of HIV disease over the past two decades by disabling the array of programs supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration, which funds the Ryan White CARE Act Program and its life-saving AIDS Drug Assistance Program. These programs have worked in concert to reduce deaths due to HIV disease in the U.S. by 60 to 80 percent.

Furthermore, proposals to gut federal support for all programs outside of homeland security and space exploration come at a time when the United States has made a laudable commitment to fighting the global AIDS pandemic. Without adequate funding to support our commitment, the 14,000 new HIV infections that occur daily worldwide will not only continue but will increase.

If instructions to cut Medicaid spending and to cap discretionary health and social programs are included in the Budget Resolution, we will consider an affirmative vote on the Resolution an assault on funding for domestic and global AIDS programs that will have far-reaching and deleterious consequences for people living with AIDS in the U.S. and abroad. Not enacting a Budget Resolution would be better than enacting one that eliminates the ability of Congress and the Executive Branch to respond to the public health and health care needs for the next five years and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action  
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Housing Association of Tacoma/Three Cedars  
The AIDS Institute  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
AIDS Survival Project – Providing Tools for Living with HIV

United States House of Representatives

March 16, 2004

2

American Academy of HIV Medicine  
AIDS Treatment Data Network  
ACT UP Philadelphia  
Cascade AIDS Project  
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Georgia ADAP Task Force  
Health GAP (Global Access Project)  
HIV Medicine Association  
Housing Works  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US)  
National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Minority AIDS Council  
Pierce County AIDS Foundation  
Project Inform  
International AIDS Empowerment  
San Francisco Aids Foundation  
The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
Spokane AIDS Network  
TIICAAAN – Title II Community AIDS Network  
Treatment Action Group  
Treatment Access Expansion Project (TAEP)  
United Communities AIDS Network