

MEDICAID MATTERS TO PEOPLE WITH AIDS

Support State Fiscal Relief, Increase Federal Medical Assistance Percentage

May 16, 2003

Dear Representative:

The undersigned groups urge you to support significant fiscal relief for state Medicaid programs when this issue is considered in the final tax legislation that will soon be before you.

As providers, consumers and advocates who represent persons living with HIV/AIDS, we know the Medicaid program is vital to the health and well-being of thousands of men, women and children living with HIV disease who rely on the Medicaid program for their health care.

Medicaid is the largest payer of AIDS care and has provided access to lifesaving medical treatments that have revolutionized the disease, with 60 to 80 percent reductions in deaths and HIV-associated complications.

Because of our struggling economy, state Medicaid programs from coast to coast are struggling to continue to provide comprehensive health services to eligible beneficiaries. Faced with dwindling resources, states are making difficult choices from limiting eligibility to capping prescription drug benefits. An infusion of federal dollars into these programs would greatly assist states in their efforts to continue to offer medically necessary services to the low-income seniors, pregnant women, children and persons with disabilities that depend upon Medicaid for their health care.

For many of its beneficiaries, including people with HIV/AIDS, Medicaid serves as nothing less than a lifeline. Losing eligibility or critical covered services translates into emergency room visits, preventable hospitalizations and premature death.

Earlier this year, you played an important role in ensuring that the budget resolution for FY 2004 adopted by the Congress does not include any cuts to Medicaid. We deeply appreciate your leadership at a critical moment.

We strongly encourage you to continue your support for Medicaid by actively working to ensure that any tax legislation signed into law includes immediate state fiscal relief for Medicaid.

Please communicate to the House Leadership that the conference committee tax bill must contain the state Medicaid fiscal relief adopted by the Senate. Thank you for your ongoing support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

AAA Chicago, Aurora, IL
ActionAIDS, Philadelphia, PA
Action for a Better Community Inc., Rochester, New York
Adolescent and Young Adult Center, Baltimore, MD
African American Coalition on AIDS, Albany, NY
African Salvation Group Corp, Brooklyn, NY
AIDS Action Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
AIDS Action Project NW, Portland, OR
AIDS Alabama, Birmingham, AL
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families, Washington, DC
AIDS Care Project, Boston, MA
AIDS Community Residence Association, Inc., Durham, NC
The AIDS Drug Assistance Program Working Group, Washington, DC
AIDS Education Global Information System, CA
AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago, IL
The AIDS Foundation of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
AIDS Health Project, San Francisco, CA
AIDS Housing of Washington, Seattle, WA
AIDS Information Global Education System
AIDS Leadership Foothills-area Alliance, Hickory, NC
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Chicago, IL
AIDS Medicare Project, San Francisco, CA
AIDS Partnership Michigan, Detroit, MI
AIDS Patients for Sana Policies, San Juan, Puerto Rico
AIDS Project Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
AIDS Project Rhode Island, Providence, RI
AIDS Services of Austin, Austin, TX
AIDS Services of Dallas, Dallas, TX
AIDS Support Network, San Luis Obispo, CA
AIDS Task Force, Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
AIDS Treatment Data Network, New York, NY
Alliance for Living, New London, CT
American Academy of HIV Medicine, Los Angeles, CA
AMITY Outreach Ministries, Timberlake, NC
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Anchorage, AK
APEL Health Services, Jacksonville, FL
Arkansas Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention, Tillar, Arkansas
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, San Francisco, CA
Aspirations Wholistic Tutorial Services, Baton Rouge, LA
Beaver County AIDS Service Organization, Aliquippa, PA
Boardway Health Center, Riviera Beach, FL
Borderbelt AIDS Resources Team, Lumberton, NC
Boulder County AIDS Project, Boulder, CO
Brooklyn Pediatric AIDS Network, Brooklyn, NY
Brother to Brother, Seattle, WA
Calcutta House, Philadelphia, PA
California Prison Focus, San Francisco, CA
Cambridge Cares About AIDS, Inc., Cambridge, MA
Care Dimensions, Inc., North Bergen, NJ
Care for the Homeless, New York, NY

CARE Team, HIV Case Management Program, Santa Cruz, CA
CARES, Kalamazoo, MI
Carl Vogel Center, Washington, DC
CAST, Inc., Brunswick, GA
Catholic Charities AIDS Ministry, Portland, OR
Catholic Charities Community Services, Rochester, NY
The Center for AIDS: Hope & Remembrance Project, Houston, TX
The Center for Child and Family Services, Inc., Milwaukee, WI
Center for Community Alternatives, Syracuse/New York/Brooklyn, NY
Chattanooga CARES HIV/AIDS Resource Center and Primary CARE Center, Chattanooga, TN
Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale, FL
CitiWide Harm Reduction, Bronx, NY
COHSC/Central City Day Center, Indianapolis, IN
Columbus AIDS Task Force, Columbus, OH
CommuniCare Health Center, Woodland, CA
Community Care HIV/AIDS Project, Ukiah, CA
Community Coalition for Healthy People 2010, Cincinnati, OH
Community Health Awareness Group/Point of Change, Detroit, MI
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization for Power, Philadelphia, PA/New York, NY
Comprehensive Health and Community Services, Inc., East Orange, NJ
Connecticut AIDS Residence Coalition, Hartford, CT
Cooperative Pharmacy Program, University of Texas El Paso/Austin, El Paso, Tx
The Corner Health Center, Ypsilanti, MI
Crater AIDS Action Project, Petersburg, VA
Crossroads Medical at The Ambulatory Surgery Center Of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY
Dayspring AIDS Support Services, Augusta, ME
Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Early Intervention Services, Denver, CO
Desert AIDS Project, Palm Springs, CA
Detroit Black Gay Pride, Detroit, MI
Dimock Community Health Center, Roxbury, MA
Diocesan Action Committee On AIDS
DuBay Horton Associates, Bridgeport, CT
Duke AIDS Research and Treatment Center, Durham, NC
Early Intervention Program at Kennedy, Somerdale, NJ 08083
East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon HIV Services Program, Portland, OR
Embrace HIV/AIDS Ministry of the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Washington, DC
Exponents Inc., New York, NY
Families In New Directions, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
Family & Children's Services
The Family Clinic at Children's, Alabama Ryan White Title IV Program, Birmingham, AL
Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA
Florida AIDS Action, Miami, FL
Florida Keys HIV Community Planning Partnership, Key West, FL
Friends For Life Corporation, Aloysius Home & AIDS Resource Center, Memphis, TN
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research, Brooklyn, NY
Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York, NY
Gay Men of African Descent, New York, NY
Grateful, Inc., Baltimore, MD
Greater Love Tabernacle, Boston, MA

The Greater Peninsula Care Foundation, Hampton, VA
Haitian Centers Council, Brooklyn, NY
Harambee Empowerment Center for Youth, St. Louis, MO
Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc., New York, NY
Harm Reduction Coalition, New York, NY
Harm Reduction of Rockford dba Total Health Awareness Team, Rockford, IL
Health Care for the Homeless, Inc., Baltimore, MD
Health Evaluation Research Services, Takoma Park, MD
Health Services Center, Gadsden, AL
Helena Hatch Special Care Center, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
Hepatitis C Action & Advocacy Coalition, San Francisco, CA
Hispanic AIDS Forum, New York, NY
HIV Alliance, Eugene, OR
HIV Homeless Task Force, Los Angeles, CA
HIV Medicine Association, Washington, DC
HIV Wisdom for Older Women/Family Health Care, Kansas City, KS
Hope for the Pee Dee, Florence, SC
Housing Works, Inc., New York, NY
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Hydeia Broadbent Foundation, Los Angeles, CA
Indianapolis Urban League, Indianapolis, IN
Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, Plainfield, NJ
International AIDS Empowerment, El Paso, TX
International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, Chicago, IL
International Black Women's Congress, Norfolk, VA
International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS, Portland, OR
Iowa Center for AIDS Resources & Education, Iowa City, IA
Jersey City Connections, Inc., Jersey City, NJ
Keep It Healthy, High Point, NC
Kent County Counseling Services, Dover, DE
Kentucky Minority AIDS Program, Louisville, KY
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, Los Angeles, CA
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York, NY
Latino Organization for Liver Awareness, Bronx, NY
Liberating Love HIV/AIDS Ministry, Baltimore, MD
Lighthouse Counseling Center, Montgomery, AL
Love Community Medical Research and Outreach Ministries, Montgomery, AL
Madison County AIDS Project, Granite City, IL
Marketing, Management & Health Care Consulting, LLC, Oakland, CA
The McGregor Clinic, Fort Myers, FL
Medical Center Clinic, Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Houston, TX
Men of Color Motivational Group, Inc., Detroit, MI
Messiah International Ministries, Bedford Heights, OH
Metropolitan Community Church of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville, CA
Minnesota AIDS Project, Minneapolis, MN
Minority AIDS Project, Los Angeles, CA
Miracle of Love, Inc., Orlando, FL
MTS, Inc., New York, NY
My Brothaz HOME, Inc., Savannah, GA
Nashville CARES, Nashville, TN
National Association for Victims of Transfusion-Acquired AIDS, Bethesda, MD

National Association of People with AIDS, Washington, DC
National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Baltimore, MD
National Health Law Program, Washington, DC
National Minority AIDS Council, Washington, DC
National Public Health Forum, Columbia, MD
Network/Positive Action, Pleasant Valley, NY
New England AIDS Education and Training Center, Boston, MA
New York AIDS Coalition, New York, NY
New York City AIDS Housing Network, Brooklyn, NY
New York Immigration Coalition, New York, NY
New York State Office Of Mental Health Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, Jamaica, NY
NO/AIDS Task Force, New Orleans, LA
N.E. Florida Leadership Council, Lake City, Florida
North Idaho AIDS Coalition, Coeur d'Alene, ID
Northern Kentucky Independent Health Department, Fort Mitchell, KY
Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, Arlington, VA
Northwestern Connecticut AIDS Project, Torrington, CT
Nursing Research Center on HIV/AIDS Health Disparities, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, P.R.
OASIS HIV Consortium, Danvers, MA
Office of Multicultural Student Development, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
Z White Associates, San Antonio, TX
Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services, Columbia, SC
Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice, Philadelphia, PA
Persad Center, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA
Persons Living with HIV Action Network of Colorado, CO
The Phoenix Group Foundation, Inc., Atlanta, GA
Pierce County AIDS Foundation, Tacoma, WA
Pitt County AIDS Service Organization, Greenville, NC
PlanetPoz.org, Carrizozo, NM
Portland Area Ryan White Services Planning Council, Portland, OR
Project Care, Inc., Greenville, SC
Project Inform, San Francisco, CA
Project Response, Inc., Melbourne, FL
Puertorriqueños Asociados for Community Organization/Grass Roots Initiative Program, Jersey City, NJ
River Hills Community Health Center, Ottumwa, IA
Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc., Rochester, NY
Ryan White Title I Planning Council, Las Vegas, NV
Saint Bridget's Support Network, Newark, NJ
St. Peter Claver Mission, Fort Myers, FL
San Fernando Valley HIV/AIDS Consortium, CA
San Francisco AIDS Foundation, San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, San Francisco, CA
Scattered Sites, Philadelphia, PA
Selma Air
Shisa Incorporated, Tallahassee, FL
South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, Inc., Biloxi, MS
Southern Alcohol Drug & Alcohol Programs, Inc., Positive Steps HIV Services, Downey, CA
Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dayton, OH
Teens United for the Future, Chester, SC

Tennessee AIDS Support Services, Inc., Knoxville, TN
Test Positive Aware Network, Chicago, IL
Title II Community AIDS National Network, Washington DC
Title IV Program, Maricopa Integrated Health System, McDowell Health Clinic, Phoenix, AZ
Treat Me Right/St. Luke AME Church, New York, NY
Treatment Access Expansion Project, Boston, MA
Treatment Action Group, New York, NY
Tulsa CARES, Tulsa, OK
Two Spirit Society of Denver, Denver, CO
Tyler AIDS Services, Inc.
University of Miami OB/GYN Research, Miami, FL
Valley AIDS Council, Harlingen, Texas
Vermont People with AIDS Coalition, Montpelier, VT
Virginia Public Health Association
Visionary Health Concepts, Inc., New York, NY
Walter Smith Roxbury comprehensive Community Health Center, Roxbury, MA
We Are Alive, Inc., San Antonio, Texas
We're Educators a Touch of Class, Boston, MA
Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project, Inc., Whittier, CA
Williamsburg/Greenpoint/Bushwick HIV CARE Network, Brooklyn, NY
The Women's Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY
Yale University AIDS Program, Project Trust, New Haven, CT