

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 2004

## HELP SAVE ADAP (AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

Dear Colleague:

We are sending the attached letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions asking for a \$217 million increase in FY 2005 for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations bill provided a \$35 million increase for ADAP. However, this allocation fell short of the \$215 million increase then needed to stave off the funding crisis that has led to waiting lists, restricted formularies and denial of treatment to those in need.

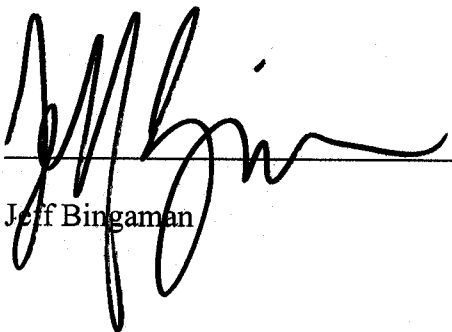
Funded under Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act, ADAP makes it possible for low-income persons to purchase medications to treat HIV/AIDS. As you know, Congress created a separate funding line to appropriate funds directly to ADAP, in large part to address the enormous need created by the advent of new combination drug therapies. These funds go directly to aid the more than 150,000 people who will depend on ADAP to afford the high cost of these life-saving and life-extending therapies.

Nationally, nearly twenty-five percent of Americans who are currently in treatment for HIV infection receive their care through ADAP. This program is an important federal response to the epidemic, enabling communities to provide a system of care for low-income residents living with HIV disease. Without this assistance, states will be forced to reduce care.

Therefore, in addition to requesting increased funds for FY 2005, we are also concerned about the lack of adequate ADAP resources for 2004. If a vehicle were to become available, we ask also for an emergency appropriation of \$122 million. These funds could be used immediately to prevent states from establishing wait lists or limiting enrollment, as 16 states have already been forced to do and five more expect to in the coming months.

If you would like to sign this letter, or if you need more information, please contact Daniela Ligiéro in Senator Bingaman's office, or Catherine Finley in Senator Gordon Smith's office.

Sincerely,



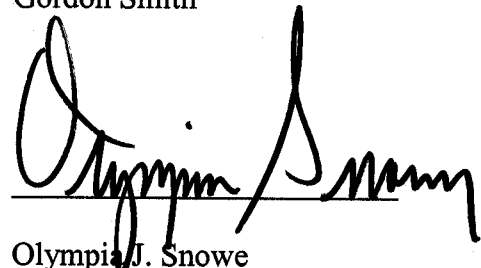
Jeff Bingaman



Richard J. Durbin



Gordon Smith



Olympia J. Snowe