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Congressional Black Caucus

of the Congress of the United States
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Over 1,200 Patients Denied Treatment AIDS Drug Assistance Programs' Waiting Lists Grow \$126 Million Needed Urgently To Solve Crisis

Friday June 11th @ 12:00pm

Cannon Caucus Room: Cannon House Office Building Room 345

In fiscal years 2007 and 2008, the federal government cut funding to ADAP when it was finally clear of the waiting list. By the end of 2008 the waiting list was reinstated. Patients enrolling for ADAP treatment increased by 80% due to the economic downturn and increasing unemployment, according to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). Despite the rapid growth of ADAP utilization, the federal government's share of the ADAP budget has consistently decreased over the past decade. It declined from 68% in FY 2000 to 49% in FY 2009. While there are many factors that have exacerbated the growth of the waiting list, this 20% drop in the federal commitment to ADAP is undoubtedly the root problem. Without additional funds from the federal government, Congress and the President are consigning every individual in ADAP to remain on a waiting list or fear being placed on one.

RSVP TO GSKOCH@TIICANN.ORG

Moderated by: Brandon Macsata, ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)

The Honorable Donna Christensen (VI)

ADAP suffers yet another racial disparity

Ann Lefert, NASTAD

Waiting Lists- How we got here and how we can fix it

The Honorable David Price (NC)

Feeling the brunt of the waiting list in the South

Wayne Duffus, M.D. PhD. (SC)

Why interrupted treatment is detrimental

The Honorable Joseph Cao (LA)

Challenges remain in post-Katrina New Orleans

Atensia Earp, MSW University of South Carolina

What happens to patients without Medication

Brandon M. Macsata

Brandon Macsata serves as Managing Partner of The Macsata-Kornegay Group, Inc. – a national political and fundraising consulting firm specializing in grassroots campaigns, media messaging and political fundraising. He is widely recognized for his ability to connect national, state and local stakeholders interested in influencing public policy. Macsata has extensive experience working with political candidates, national and statewide trade associations, and other corporate entities.

In November 2009, Macsata was acknowledged by HIV-Plus Magazine to be amongst the “Top 25 LGBT Leaders Fighting HIV/AIDS”. First diagnosed as HIV-positive in March 2002, Macsata has dedicated much of his professional and personal life advocating for persons living with HIV/AIDS. He currently serves as CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+), a national non-profit organization working to improve the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). From November 2003 to March 2006, he authored a weekly news column on national HIV-related stories for The Weekly News in Miami, Florida. He is also a former ADAP recipient.

The Honorable Donna M Christian-Christensen (US – Virgin Islands)

Representative Christensen continues to distinguish herself as a leader in the United States Congress. As a Member serving her seventh term, she is the first female physician in the history of the U.S. Congress, the first woman to represent an offshore Territory, and the first woman Delegate from the United States Virgin Islands.

She was named to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Health, Telecommunications and the Internet, and Oversight and Investigations. The Subcommittee on Health has jurisdiction over public health and quarantine, hospital construction, mental health and research, biomedical programs and health protection, Medicaid and national health insurance, food and drugs, and drug abuse.

Christensen began her medical career in the Virgin Islands in 1975 as an emergency room physician. She served as staff physician at the Maternal & Child Health program, Medical Director of the Nesbitt Clinic in Frederiksted, Director of the Frederiksted Health Center, Director of Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning, served as the Medical Director of the St. Croix Hospital and rounded out her medical career as the Territorial Assistant Commissioner of Health and as the Acting Commissioner of Health. She maintained a private practice in family medicine from 1975 until her election to Congress in 1996.

The Honorable David Price (North Carolina – 4th District)

Representative David Price represents North Carolina's Research Triangle - a rapidly growing, largely suburban district that includes Raleigh, Cary, Durham, Chapel Hill, and surrounding communities. He received his undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and went on to Yale University to earn a Bachelor of Divinity as well as a Ph.D. in Political Science. In North Carolina, David's constituents know him as a strong supporter of education, accessible health care, affordable housing, clean air and water, and improved transportation alternatives.

Price was named a “Champion of Science” by the Science Coalition, and the North Carolina National Guard awarded him the Charles Dick Medal of Merit. He has been recognized by Voices for AmeriCorps, the NC Low-Income Housing Coalition, the NC Public Transportation Association, the Association of Community College Trustees, the National Association of Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities, and other organizations for his work in housing, education, and transportation policy.

At the beginning of the 110th Congress, Price served on the House Ethics Task Force, which passed sweeping ethics reforms, establishing an independent Office of Congressional Ethics to hold members accountable for misconduct. Price is currently the lead House sponsor of legislation to reform the presidential public financing system, and he has cosponsored a bill to permit public financing of congressional campaigns.

The Honorable Anh “Joseph” Cao (Louisiana – 2nd District)

Anh "Joseph" Cao was born on March 13, 1967 in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam. His father, an officer with the South Vietnamese Army, was imprisoned by the Communists. At the age of eight, Cao escaped to America with two of his siblings. He learned English, thrived in school, and earned a physics degree from Baylor University before he began studying for the priesthood. Cao first arrived in New Orleans in 1992. He left to earn a Master's degree in philosophy from New York's Fordham University, returning to Loyola University to teach philosophy and ethics.

As he prepared for priesthood, his faith was strong. However, his confidence in government's ability to care for those in need weakened by the day. Before long, Cao ended his quest for priesthood in a personal crusade for social justice. In Washington, DC; he became an advocate for refugees, future Americans who embody a "can-do" spirit and strong work ethic. In pursuit of justice for all, he attained a law degree from Loyola Law School. He became the in-house legal counsel for Boat People S.O.S, Inc., an organization helping poor Vietnamese and other minorities.

Congressman Cao hosted his AAA Health Care Initiative in New Orleans providing free screenings, education, information about discounted prescription drugs, and referrals from the area's top medical specialists. As well, he worked with several health advocacy groups to co-sponsor free public hepatitis B & C screenings on Capitol Hill providing testing, counseling, and education on the deadly diseases.

Ann Lefert, MPP

Ann Lefert is Associate Director of Government Relations at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). NASTAD represents the nation's chief state health agency staff who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV/AIDS healthcare, prevention, education, and supportive service programs funded by state and federal governments. She has been with NASTAD since 2002 and is responsible for policy development and advocacy on appropriations and legislation related to HIV/AIDS care and treatment and prevention issues, including health care access. Ann is an active participant of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership, the HIV Health Care Access Work Group, the ADAP Coalition and co-chairs the Ryan White Work Group.

Ann received her Bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and her Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Atensia S. Earp, MSW, BSW

Atensia is a recent graduate from the University of South Carolina's graduate social work program. In her current position, Atensia provides case management services at a local HIV clinic in the Columbia metropolitan area of South Carolina to youth ages 18 - 24. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, and served three years on the South Carolina HIV/STD planning council. Atensia participates in a variety of HIV care and prevention projects throughout the state and has been working with the HIV/AIDS population professionally since 2003. In addition to her current role, where she provides direct services to clients, she also gets the word out about HIV/AIDS in her community through conferences, workshops, and facilitating HIV prevention strategies to faith-based organizations, and young women throughout the state.

Wayne A. Duffus, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Duffus graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY with an MD degree and a PhD degree in Virology/Cell Biology. He completed residency training in Internal Medicine at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, and fellowship training in Infectious Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. He subsequently worked as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and was stationed in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Duffus is currently an Associate Professor with the University of South Carolina, School of Medicine, Infectious Diseases Division where he sees HIV/AIDS patients in the Ryan White Clinic. He is also affiliated with the Department of Health and Environmental Control as the Medical Director for the STD/HIV Division and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program pharmacy.

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