



PRESS RELEASE

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Last Chance to Solve ADAP Crisis

Over 4,500 People are on ADAP Waiting Lists as Lame Duck Nears an End

WASHINGTON, D.C. – There are 4,543 people on ADAP waiting lists as of December 9, 2010, and less than two weeks of voting remain for the 111th Congress. Despite the continually growing ADAP waiting list, Congress and the Presidential Administration have taken no action since mid July of this year to relieve this ever worsening burden on American citizens. Unless legislation is passed or some executive action is taken by the time Congress retires for the Holiday recess (many of the Congressmen will not be returning), it is very likely that there will be well over 5,000 people on ADAP waiting lists when the 112th Congress begins. The Continuing Resolution passed by the House of Representatives calls for fiscal year 2010 funding levels of ADAP with an additional \$60 million for fiscal year 2011. This includes the \$25 Million in reprogrammed funds from President Obama in 2010.

“This (the ADAP waiting list) is not a new problem. For over a year we have been warning Congress and the President that the federal government’s underfunding of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program would lead to dire consequences,” commented William Arnold, Executive Director of the Community Access National Network. “It is time for Congress to act, and act quickly. If a decision cannot be made before legislators leave for the holiday recess, countless more people will be on waiting lists (or disenrolled because of reduced eligibility) by the time they return. It is time they heeded our warnings and alleviate this financial burden. If action is not taken there will be 6,000 Americans on waiting lists when Congress begins focusing on legislation in 2011. The fear of fatalities, due to lack of treatment, is turning in to more of a reality. The federal government will be held accountable when American citizens start dying because preventable action was not taken”

Congressman Maurice Hinchey, from New York’s 22nd district, who sits on the House Appropriations Committee, has been a champion for increasing federal appropriations for ADAP’s budget. “The New York congressional delegation has requested ADAP Emergency Supplemental Appropriations in the budget process on several occasions in the last few years,” noted Congressman Hinchey. “The House of Representatives was able to include some increase to the ADAP budget in the recently passed continuing resolution. It is up to the Senate to ensure that the CR is passed into law. For a state like New York – the epicenter of the national HIV/AIDS epidemic - it is essential for the constituent’s well being for programs like ADAP to be equally funded by the State and Federal governments. The New York state government has done a superb job in very trying times to find necessary resources. However, the local efforts will not be successful with out sufficient support from the Fed.”

The racial and ethnic minority population has also been hard hit by ADAP’s underfunding. Congresswoman Donna Christensen, from the U.S. Virgin Islands, chairs the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust and has consistently fought for additional funding for ADAP. “The warnings of the current ADAP crisis that many members of Congress and the advocacy community have given over the years are coming to pass,” remarked Congresswoman Christensen. “I am concerned about the majority of HIV+ individuals on ADAP who are located in the southern states. Over 90% of those people are from the minority community, in states with already stretched budgets. I find it wholly unacceptable that the Federal government is unwilling to support the American demographic most in need. The \$60 million in the CR is inclusive of the \$25 million reappropriated by the President earlier this year. It is infeasible for the issues in ADAP to be solved with such limited financing.”