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PRESS RELEASE

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White House Takes Step Forward on ADAP

Proposals still fall short \$100 Million and Waiting list still grows

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the August recess comes to a close and members of Congress begin to return from their home districts, the number of patients waiting for their life-saving AIDS drugs continues to climb. As of August 30, 3,337 individuals were languishing on a waiting list in 13 states.

While the White House has reprogrammed \$25 million from the department of Health and Human Services, this funding is far short of the needed \$126 million which was offered by Senators Burr, Enzi and Coburn on a bill presented at the beginning of the summer. Additionally, the White House has amended its FY 2011 budget to reflect this money equaling a sum total \$50 million increase next year.

“The HIV/AIDS community is grateful for the attention that ADAP is currently receiving and the extra dollars that are being proposed,” commented William Arnold, executive director of the Community Access National Network. “Nevertheless, these funds still fall short of what is needed if we are to continue to keep our promises to these patients who are in dire need of medication. For FY 2010 alone, an additional \$126 million was needed to keep ADAP solvent and now we learn that some of the increases for this year are simply coming out of next years allocation. Without truly funding ADAP at its current capacity, waiting lists will continue to rise, patients will continue to fall through the cracks and we will see more unnecessary deaths.”

For more than a year, CANN has worked closely with the HIV/AIDS community to educate and disseminate information concerning funding for these patients who are enrolled in the Ryan White AIDS Drug Assistance Program. The waiting list, which had 99 individuals in April of 2009, currently has over 3,300 people on it. Despite a broad consensus around the ADAP need number and a coordinated push from grassroots organizations nation wide, Congressional leadership has repeatedly stymied attempts to secure the needed money to ensure life-saving medication reaches those who desperately need it.

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