

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2003

The Honorable Chairman Ralph Regula
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:

We are writing to respectfully request that as you continue work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations you provide full needs based funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), to ensure that those suffering from HIV/AIDS in our country have access to all current and new medicines and therapies.

While there has been a great deal of attention on our united efforts in Congress to enhance the U.S. role in fighting the Global AIDS epidemic and helping needy people around the world gain access to treatments, it is equally important that we act to meet the needs of people here at home who are suffering with HIV/AIDS. For too many Americans, these same treatments are out of reach without our help.

As you know, state ADAPs provide critical life-preserving medications to low-income, uninsured and underinsured persons living with HIV and AIDS. Additionally, ADAP programs often serve as the entry point for individuals to access health services funded through the CARE Act and other federal and state health programs. Since the mid-1990's, the standard of care for HIV/AIDS has involved the use of multiple anti-retroviral medications. Such combination therapy is expensive, costing \$10,000 or more annually, leaving many people with HIV/AIDS unable to pay for these services. New treatments on the horizon are expected to provide this population with even greater hope for prolonged life; however, such treatments are expected to come at a considerable expense.

Nationally, almost 300,000 United States residents are living with AIDS. ADAP is a vital federal commitment that enables our communities to offer a system of HIV care. It provides vital access to care and treatment for low income and uninsurable residents of the United States who have AIDS. Without such federal assistance, states will be forced to reduce care.

Unfortunately, with many states experiencing budget problems, demand is quickly outpacing available resources for ADAP programs. From 1996 to 2001, the number of clients served nationally by ADAP programs has grown by 144 percent, with expenditures on drugs increasing by over 300 percent and funding levels increasing at smaller rates.

Without a significant infusion of new resources, the need of growing client demand cannot be met. That is why we urge your support for a \$280 million increase for ADAP for FY 2004. These funds will ensure that those currently enrolled in ADAP and those newly diagnosed with HIV will have access to essential treatments.

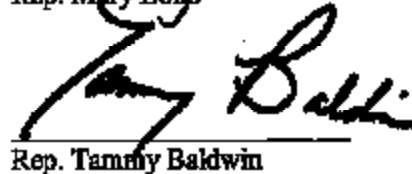
We appreciate the Subcommittee's past support for this program and thank you for your consideration of this request.

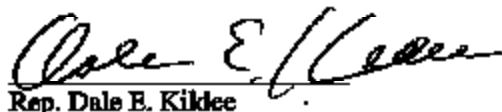
Sincerely,

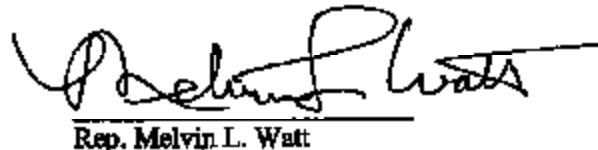

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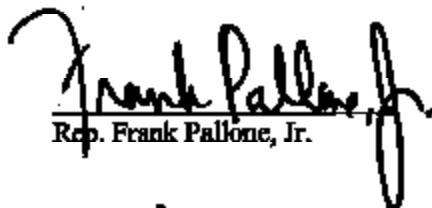

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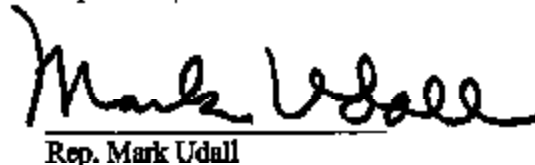

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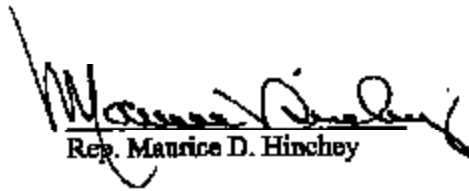

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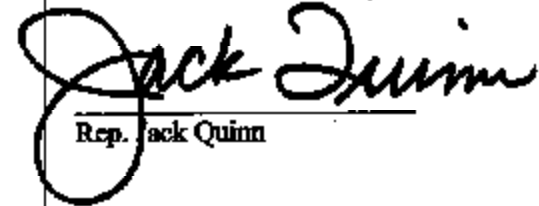

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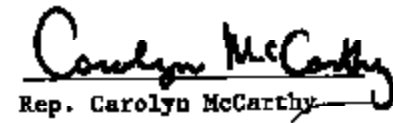

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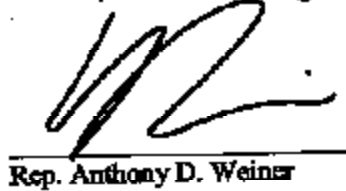

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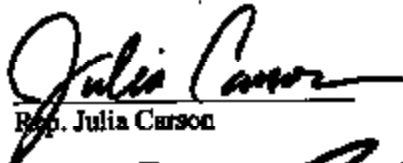

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