

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

JUDY MARTZ
GOVERNOR



ADAP Working Group
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August 4, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

The Montana AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is very concerned about the increasing need for a HIV/AIDS medication provision. The number of uninsured and underinsured persons predicted to need assistance climbs steadily every year as new treatment advances increase survival rates. The funding picture for 2004 is looming ominously, as the proposed federal ADAP allocation will fall far short of estimated costs.


Although faced with a critical budget dilemma, the State of Montana was able to subsidize its ADAP with limited state funding. In spite of those additional funds, Montana has been forced to cap ADAP enrollment and institute a waiting list. The situation may worsen in 2004.

Therapeutic advances are keeping many persons infected with HIV/AIDS relatively healthy. Keeping them healthy not only makes good humanitarian sense, but good financial sense as well. Medicaid costs for those disabled with AIDS are more than three times higher than ADAP costs. Many persons on ADAP are well enough to work at least part time, and it behooves us to help them remain productive.

For these reasons, funding to meet the level of need is essential.

Thank you and we hope that you share our concern.

Sincerely,


JUDY MARTZ
Governor

c: Senator Max Baucus
Senator Conrad Burns
Representative Dennis Rehberg