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U.S. House of Representatives
1711 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
ph: (202) 225-1790 / fx: (202) 225-5517

Rep. Donna Christian-Christensen

Fax

To:

Sandy Thurman

From:

Monique

Firm:

Pages:

4 including cover

Phone:

Date:

9/13

Re:

Fax:

456-2439

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CONFIDENTIAL DONNA CHRISTENSEN ID: 2022255517 PAGE 2/4
SEP. 15 1999 11:21AM F4

PANELISTS

Opening Remarks will be provided by Secretary Shalala, Health and Human Services

I. DOMESTIC (Moderated by Bev Smith, Black Entertainment Television, BET)

- The Honorable Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI)
- The Honorable Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)
- Eric Goosby, M.D., Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Policy; Principal Advisor to the Secretary, Health and Human Services
- Helene Gayle, M.D., M.P.H., Director, National Center for HIV STD & TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control
- Beny Primm, M.D., Executive Director, The Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation
- Sandra McDonald, President, OUTREACH, Inc.
- Pernessa Seele, C.E.O., The Balm in Gilead
- Debra Fraser-Howze, President / C.E.O., National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
- Celia Maxwell, M.D., F.A.C.P., Assistant Vice President, Health Affairs; Director, Women's Health Institute, Howard University
- Rev. Marvin A. McMickle, Ph.D., Antioch Baptist Church
- Lucille C. Perez, M.D., Associate Director, Medical and Clinical Affairs, Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA
- Nathan Stinson, M.D., Director, Office of Minority Health
- Ron Simmons, Ph.D., Executive Director, Us Helping Us
- The Oakland Experience
 - The Honorable Barbara Lee
 - Arnold Perkins, Director, Alameda County Department of Public Health
 - Alven Quamina, Esq., Chair, African American AIDS Task Force of Alameda County
- Community Perspectives
 - Lenore Rollins, ACEOUT
 - William Bennington, Person Living with AIDS
 - Karen McManus, Person Living with AIDS

II. INTERNATIONAL (Moderated by Dr. Ian Smith, News Correspondent, NBC)

- The Honorable Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, President, Healthcare International Management Company; Congressional Representative Emeritus
- Jacob Gayle, M.D., UNAIDS Technical Advisor, The World Bank
- Allen Herman, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, National School of Public Health of the Republic of Southern Africa
- Olive Shisana, M.D., Executive Director, Health Systems and Community Health, W.H.O.
- The Honorable Professor Sam K. Onger, E.G.H., E.B.S., M.P., M.B.B.S., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., Minister of Health, Kenya
- Mary Kanya, Ambassador to United States, Kingdom of Swaziland
- Gregory Simpkins, Policy Director, Corporate Council on Africa
- Earl Yates, Regional Director, Africa Peace Corps
- Alleyne, M.D., Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) (unconfirmed)

INTRODUCTION DONNA CHRISTENSEN ID: 2022255517 PAGE 3/4
USAfrica: CONFRONTING THE GLOBAL AIDS CRISIS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference Issue Forum
Willard Inter-Continental Washington
Thursday, September 16, 1999
2:00 - 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Introductions (2:00 - 2:05 p.m.)

Bev Smith, Black Entertainment Television (BET)

Opening Remarks (2:05 - 2:20 p.m.)

Secretary Shelala; The Honorable Donna Christien-Christensen; and The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums

DOMESTIC PERSPECTIVES

I. Examination of Domestic Challenges (2:20 - 2:35 p.m.)

- Community Perspectives: Living with AIDS

Lanore Rolkins, ACE.OUT

William Bennington, Person Living with AIDS

Karen McManus, Person Living with AIDS

II. Evaluation of Current Interventions and Associated Policies: Have We Found Sustainable Solutions?

- One Community's Response: The Oakland Experience (2:35 - 2:50 p.m.)

The Honorable Barbara Lee

Arnold Perkins, Alameda County Department of Public Health

Alvan Quamina, African American AIDS Task Force of Alameda County

- The State of Emergency: On Track or Derailed (2:50 - 3:20 p.m.)

Debra Fraser-Howze, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.

Dr. Beny Primm, The Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation

Pernessa Seele, The Balm in Gilead

Sandra McDonald, OUTREACH, Inc.

- Addressing the Epidemic: An Examination of Our Efforts (3:20 - 3:55 p.m.)

Rev. Dr. McMickle, Antioch Baptist Church

Dr. Ron Simmons, US Helping US

Dr. Helene Gayle, CDC

Dr. Eric Goosby, DHHS

Dr. Lucille Perez, CSAP, SAMHSA

Dr. Nathan Stinson, Office of Minority Health

- Exploring Factors that Have Accounted for the Spread of HIV Among African-Americans (3:55 - 4:05 p.m.)

Dr. Celia Maxwell, Howard University

WRAP UP Proactive + Tether with
PANELS / on the state in
SUR's office

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Accountable (why?)

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just the beginning

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200

Modulator - DR. Tom Smith
NBE

Gordon Laurie (consequences)

Ronald Takeapoua

William C. Bellum; internally
panel

Provice Poom
demonstrating

Q + A - 6 PM

5 minutes / Thank you for
your contribution

III. Next Steps

- Accountability: Defining our Collective Responsibility (4:05 - 4:15 p.m.)

Featured panelists

Q & A (4:15 - 4:25 p.m.)

Wrap-up (4:25 - 4:30 p.m.)

Bev Smith, BET

BREAK (4:30 - 4:45 p.m.)

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

(Introductions (4:45 - 4:50 p.m.)

Dr. Ian Smith, News Correspondent, NBC

I. Examination of Existing Global Challenges

- Perspectives on the Global Epidemic: HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean (4:50 - 5:10 p.m.)

Dr. Alleyne, PAHO (unconfirmed)

Dr. Olive Shisana, W.H.O.

The Honorable Professor Sam K. Onger, Kenya

- Exploring Factors that Have Accounted for the Spread of HIV in Africa (5:10 - 5:25 p.m.)

Dr. Allen Herman, School of Public Health of South Africa

Mary Kenya, Kingdom of Swaziland

II. Developing a Strategic Response to the AIDS Pandemic

- Building Partnerships: Public and Private Perspectives and Initiatives (5:25 - 5:45 p.m.)

The Honorable Barbara Lee

Earl Yates, Africa Peace Corps

Gregory Simpkins, Corporate Council on Africa

Debra Fraser-Howze, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.

III. Implementation of Global AIDS initiatives: Confronting the Global AIDS Crisis in the New Millennium (5:45 - 6:05 p.m.)

The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, Healthcare International Management Company and Congressional Representative Emeritus

Dr. Jacob Gayle, UNAIDS Technical Advisor, The World Bank

Q & A (6:05 - 6:15 p.m.)

Wrap-up (6:15 - 6:20 p.m.)

Dr. Ian Smith, NBC

Closing Remarks (6:20 - 6:25 p.m.)

(Sandy Thurman)?

THURSDAY

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
CBC Legislative Conference Issue Forum
Willard Inter-Continental
Thursday, September 16, 1999

5:30 – 6 PM	Arrive at the Willard Inter-Continental
	Proceed to the Pierce Room downstairs. The International Panel will just be getting into their question and answer period. Maury Taheripour (who came to meet you with Anita Estell recently) will look for you around 6 PM and greet you at the door. If she is tied up, have a seat somewhere.
6:05 – 6:15 PM	Q & A for International Panel
6:15 – 6:20 PM	Wrap-Up Dr. Ian Smith, NBC Correspondent
6:20 – 6:25 PM	Closing Remarks Sandra Thurman
Introduction	Dr. Ian Smith
Audience	Approx. 200 including grassroots organizations, community folks, speakers listed on attached agenda, WHO, UNAIDS, et al. You should know most of these people.
Remarks	You are doing a 5 minute speech. <u>They want no issues, no controversy, no specific policy</u> ▪ We should all be proud of where we've been ▪ We have so much more to do on the domestic and international fronts ▪ Build partnerships ▪ Thank you so much for coming, for your commitment ▪ Let's get to work

Note: The international panel that presents before your closing remarks will most likely be running late given the question and answer session that follows it.

Contacts

Maury	Cell: 510/385-7917
Monique	202/225-1790 (Congresswoman Donna Christian-Christensen's Office)

PANELISTS

Opening Remarks will be provided by Secretary Shalala, Health and Human Services

DOMESTIC (Moderated by Bev Smith, BET)

The Honorable Donna Christian-Christensen

The Honorable Donald M. Payne

Dr. Eric Goosby, Health and Human Services

Dr. Helene Gayle, Centers for Disease Control

Dr. Beny Primm, The Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation

Sandra McDonald, OUTREACH, Inc.

Pernessa Seele, The Balm in Gilead

Debra Fraser-Howze, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.

Dr. Celia Maxwell, Howard University, Office of the Vice President for Health Affairs

Rev. Dr. McMickle, Antioch Baptist Church

Dr. Lucille C. Perez, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA

Dr. Ron Simmons, Us Helping Us

The Oakland Experience

Michael Shaw or Arnold Perkins, Alameda County Public Health Department

The Honorable Barbara Lee

Alvin Quamina, Alameda County Task Force on AIDS

Community Perspectives

William Bennington, Person Living with AIDS

Lanere Rollins, Person Living with AIDS

Monica Drew-Johnson, Person Living with AIDS

Margaret Campbell, Person Living with AIDS

INTERNATIONAL (Moderator TBD)

The Honorable Barbara Lee

Ronald V. Dellums, Healthcare International Management Company and Congressional Representative Emeritus

Dr. Jacob Gayle, UNAIDS Technical Advisor, The World Bank

Dr. Phetsile Dlamini, Kingdom of Swaziland (unconfirmed)

Dr. Allen Herman, School of Public Health of South Africa

Dr. Olive Shisana, Health Systems and Community Health, W.H.O.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., Rainbow Coalition/Operation PUSH, Inc. (unconfirmed)

Dr. Alleyne, PAHO (unconfirmed)

Gregory Simpkins, Corporate Council on Africa

Earl Yates, Africa Peace Corps

AGENDA

Bev Smith, BET, will briefly welcome the attendees to the event, provide a brief description of the event and introduce all panelists. (5 minutes)

OPENING REMARKS (15 minutes)

Provided by: Secretary Shalala, Congresswoman Donna Christian-Christensen and Ronald V. Dellums

DOMESTIC PERSPECTIVES

Examination of Domestic Challenges

Community Perspectives: Living with AIDS (20 minutes)

William Bennington, Person Living with AIDS

Lanere Rollins, Person Living with AIDS

Monica Drew-Johnson, Person Living with AIDS

Margaret Campbell, Person Living with AIDS

One Community's Response: The Oakland Experience (20 minutes)

The Honorable Barbara Lee

Alvin Quamina, Alameda County Task Force on AIDS

Arnold Perkins or Michael Shaw, Alameda County Public Health Department

The State of Emergency: On Track or Derailed (25 minutes)

Debra Fraser-Howze, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.

Dr. Beny Primm, The Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation

Pernessa Seele, The Balm in Gilead

Sandra McDonald, OUTREACH, Inc.

Addressing the epidemic: An examination of our efforts (40 minutes)

Rev. Dr. McMickle, Antioch Baptist Church

Dr. Ron Simmons, US Helping US

Dr. Helene Gayle, CDC

Dr. Eric Goosby, DHHS

Dr. Lucille Perez, CSAP, SAMHSA

Exploring factors that have accounted for the spread of HIV among African-Americans (10 minutes)

Dr. Celia Maxwell, Howard University

Next Steps

Accountability: Defining our collective responsibility (15 minutes)

Featured panelists

Q & A (15 minutes)

BREAK (15 minutes)

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES (Moderator TBD)

The moderator will provide a brief description of the event and introduce all panelists. (5 minutes)

Examination of existing global challenges

Perspectives on the global epidemic: HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean (20 minutes)

Dr. George Alleyne, PAHO (unconfirmed)

Dr. Olive Shisana, W.H.O.

Exploring factors that have accounted for the spread of HIV in Africa (20 minutes)

Dr. Dlamini, Kingdom of Swaziland (unconfirmed)

Dr. Allen Herman, School of Public Health of South Africa

Developing a strategic response to the AIDS pandemic

Building partnerships: Public and private perspectives and initiatives (15 minutes)

The Honorable Barbara Lee

Earl Yates, Regional Director for Africa Peace Corps

Gregory Simpkins, Corporate Council on Africa

Implementation of global AIDS initiatives: Confronting the global AIDS crisis in the new millennium (25 minutes)

Ronald V. Dellums, Healthcare International Management Company and Congressional Representative Emeritus

Dr. Jacob Gayle, UNAIDS Technical Advisor, The World Bank

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., President and CEO of Rainbow Coalition / Operation PUSH, Inc. (unconfirmed)

Q & A (15 minutes)

CLOSING REMARKS (5 minutes)

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)



Congressional Black Caucus

Of the United States Congress

1711 Longworth HOB - Washington, DC 20516 - Ph (202) 225-1790. Fx (202) 225-5517

August 16, 1999

Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)

Honorable James Clyburn,

Chairman, CBC

Honorable Donna Christian-Christensen,

Chairman, CBC Health Braintrust

Ms. Sandra Thurman

Director

Office of National AIDS Policy

736 Jackson Place, NW

Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman,

MEMBERS

By Seniority in the
US House of Representatives

John Conyers, Jr., MI - '65

Maxine Waters, CA - '91

Eva Clayton, NC - '92

James Clyburn, SC - '93

Alcee Hastings, FL - '93

Eddie Bernice Johnson, TX - '93

Carrie P. Meek, FL - '93

Robert C. Scott, VA - '93

Albert Wynn, MD - '93

Sheila Jackson-Lee, TX - '95

Juanita Millender-McDonald, CA - '96

Elijah Cummings, MD - '96

Donna Christian-Christensen, VI - '97

Danny K. Davis, IL - '97

Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, MI - '97

Barbara Lee, CA - '98

As Chair of the Health Braintrust for the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased to invite you to participate in an unprecedented discussion concerning the global impact of the AIDS pandemic among of people of African descent. The event, hosted by the Bristol Myers Squibb Company will be held at the **29th Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus, September 16, 1999 in Washington, D.C.** This discussion provides a unique opportunity for legislators, global health care officials, community-based organizations and people living with AIDS to critically examine international AIDS policies; including the U.S. Congressional State of Emergency Declaration, and their effectiveness in meeting the demands of global populations threatened by HIV and AIDS.

Panelists comprised of leading experts in the fields of medicine, public policy, research; and representatives of faith and community based organizations and people living with AIDS will discuss the current political, socio-economic conditions which have contributed to the AIDS pandemic. Discussions will conclude with the development of policy recommendations which compliment current international strategic planning efforts addressing this health crisis. Selected topics for discussion will include:

- * Exploring barriers which have accounted for the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on African and African American people;
- * Evaluation of the U.S. response to the AIDS crisis nationally and internationally;
- * The importance of public/private partnerships to produce an effective global response to the AIDS pandemic.

Contact: Monique Clendinen
(202) 225 - 1790

The severity of the disproportionate impact of AIDS among African Americans and indigenous populations of Africa is the subject of a growing political debate within the international community. It is estimated that over 90 percent of AIDS-related deaths and new infections worldwide have been recorded in Africa. Since the initial stages of the epidemic, African Americans have been disproportionately impacted by the AIDS virus. African Americans make up one-seventh of the U.S. population, yet constitute one-third of the nation's AIDS cases. The alarming rate of newly diagnosed AIDS cases among African Americans fueled intensive lobbying efforts by the Congressional Black Caucus to secure \$156 million in federal funds to support local HIV prevention and intervention efforts. This effort served to underscore the complexity of issues confronting local communities that are challenged to meet an increasing demand for services with strictly limited resources. The devastating impact of AIDS worldwide demands the development of a strategic response by the global community to reduce the rate of new infections and prolong life.

We hope that you will commit to sharing your knowledge and expertise as a panelist in this forum as we strive to improve the human condition both here and abroad. Please confirm your attendance with event coordinators Mori Taheripour, or Monica Sudduth of Innovative Health Solutions by calling (510-450-0190) or by e-mail address, Mori@InnovativeHealth.com. We will consult with your designee to ensure briefing packets, information on personal accommodations and conference schedules are appropriately forwarded to you upon confirmation.

Sincerely,


Donna Christian-Christensen
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus,
Health Braintrust


Donald Payne
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

included

8/16/99

V.M. W/Corraire

July 26, 1999

Manigie
206-7973

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director, National Aids Policy
The White House
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman:

The Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust will be holding a follow-up session on the Declaration of "a severe and ongoing crisis for HIV/AIDS in the African American Community" on Thursday afternoon, September 16, 1999 during the Annual Legislative Conference. During that time we will be hearing from community and faith based organizations, people living with AIDS, and others on how effective they think we have been in bringing new resources and technical assistance to communities and indigenous organizations of color.

The White House has been a full and active partner in this process. We are proud of the forward strides we have made, and you have been an important part of making it happen.

We would be very honored if you would join us to give opening remarks. At this time we are still finalizing the room arrangements, but all of the issue sessions and braintrusts will be held on the Hill.

I do hope that despite this relatively late invitation, your schedule would permit your participation. We are inviting the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Honorable Donna Shalala, and several key Members of Congress to also give greetings.

- 2 -

Please contact Mrs. Lorraine Hill of my office at 202-225-1790, if your staff has any questions and also to let us know whether or not you will be able to join us. As soon as we have a completed draft agenda we will forward it to your office.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna M. Christian-Christensen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donna M. Christian-Christensen
Chair, CBC Health Braintrust

Sandra L. Thurman
Closing Remarks to
CBC Legislative Conference Issue Forum

It is an honor to be here this evening in the company of so many remarkable individuals who continue to inspire hope in the face of AIDS. In particular, I would like to thank the members of the Congressional Black Caucus ^{for Ron Dellums, member emeritus} for all of their hard work in bringing much needed attention to the devastating impact of AIDS, both here at home and around the world. Your support and dedication continue to be invaluable. *Our voices must be heard —*

Taking a look around, I am reminded of the many great battles we have fought together to end the pain and suffering of so many. You all who have worked so hard to save lives should feel **proud** of your accomplishments, ~~as we continue along our journey in remembrance of loved ones lost along the way.~~

*Call in 1-978-343-3766
AIDS + the Issues*

United as partners—as legislators, as people living with HIV and AIDS, as community-based organizations, as advocates—and sometimes even as government officials—together we have made tremendous progress here in our fight to end AIDS.

In retrospect, this terrible epidemic has been an extraordinarily ^{poignant} reminder of what can be accomplished through struggle, and through partnership. Most of us in this room can still remember back to the days when there was little hope, when ignorance and indifference were the rule and not the exception, when treatments were desperate and unproved, and when only a few dared to respond. We have a come a long way.

But I want to make it very clear *today* that this is a story not slowly nearing its end but a huge tragedy, just beginning to unfold. We are not at the beginning of the end of AIDS, we are

at the end of the beginning. We must be vigilant against the growing misperception that AIDS is no longer a lethal threat, a misperception that too often breeds complacency and inaction.

It is now time for us to move from paper to practice -- and from words to deeds. Our battle against AIDS will be won or lost based on our ability to create together bold *new* partnerships for the new millennium and to come together in support of constructive action.

Together, we must find ways to affirm that we are a global community where crisis and opportunity have no borders – that our battle against AIDS in America, in Africa, and around the world is a shared responsibility.

Together, we must join our voices and pool our skills and our resources to begin to keep pace with an epidemic that is out of control.

And as we struggle to move forward together – the future of our shared global community compels us all to find ways to do better, to be smarter, to move faster, and to develop whatever capacity we lack, so we can gear up for the long haul.

I want you to know that this Administration is truly committed to doing everything within our power to turn the potential into reality by helping to feed the momentum that has brought us this far. I join the President and the Vice President in thanking you for your tremendous efforts on behalf of all those living with HIV and AIDS. I also want to ask that you continue to push us to do what is right, to advocate for those who depend on us for

action, to give a voice to the voiceless – and to give the children of the world the bright future they deserve.

Commercial Announcement - 100ml - 30ml
Labor H Bills in House - Senate
30 ml NIH Building Fund
Rorder/Specter

This is a time of great challenge. The destiny of millions of people hang in the balance. I pray that each of us can leave this forum more confident in our commitment, more invigorated and more energized by our determination to doing everything that we can do to win the battle against AIDS. Let us commit together to build from this tragedy a foundation for hope, a legacy of compassion, and new partnerships forged by our shared struggle.

**Remarks by Sandra Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
CBC "Improving Health of Africa"**

My visit with you today comes at a very opportune time. So much of the work we have been doing in the Administration during the last ~~6 months~~^{year} has been devoted to the global AIDS crisis -- and more specifically to the growing global tragedy of AIDS in Africa.

Twice this year, I have visited South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia at the request of President Clinton. Together with leaders from Congress and the private sector, we went to bear witness to the AIDS emergency and to search for ways to enhance our understanding and support for sustainable solutions springing up across this vast continent.

If we are determined to hold fast to our new vision for the 21st century -- we must commit today to join forces in an all-out war on a common enemy.

And that enemy is AIDS.

AIDS is a plague of biblical proportion, and it is claiming more lives than all armed conflicts waging around the world today combined. While many of us have witnessed its devastation, it is almost impossible to grasp the grip that AIDS has on villages across Africa and on communities around the world.

In many communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS has virtually wiped out parents and providers, leaving behind children and grandparents to care for each other. Increasingly, it is the children who are caught in the crossfire of this relentless epidemic, and who are crying out for our help.

In just a few short years, AIDS has wiped out decades of hard work and steady progress in development -- and will soon double infant mortality, triple child mortality, and slash life expectancy by 20 years or more.

And AIDS has had a devastating impact on economic growth -- striking down skilled workers in their prime and forcing many companies to hire two employees for every one job -- assuming that one will die of AIDS.

Yet amidst this tragedy is hope. Amidst this crisis is opportunity; the opportunity to empower women and men, to protect children, and to support families and communities in our battle against AIDS. In cities and villages across Africa, efforts are being made to stem the rising tide of HIV infection, to prolong the lives of those who are sick and to stitch together a tapestry of family support systems for the growing millions of children orphaned by AIDS.

But we must remember, the tragedy of AIDS is not slowly nearing its end, it is just beginning to unfold. So as we struggle to move forward together -- the futures of these children and families compel us all to find ways to do better, to be smarter, to move faster, and to develop whatever capacity we lack, so we can gear up for the long haul.

~~luckily~~, painful experience ^{here at home in Africa} has taught us some valuable lessons, and we should take them to heart.

First, leadership matters.

While this war will depend on the valiant efforts of dedicated soldiers in communities worldwide, it cannot be won without leadership from the top. With the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, we have made great strides -- but much more remains to be done. In the final analysis -- there is simply no substitute for real and committed leadership.

Second, this fight requires an investment -- of time, energy, and resources. ~~Not just US resources~~ ^{from the US, but from other donors and host govt's as well.}

Third, we pay a heavy price for the stigma that surrounds AIDS. We must lift the shroud of secrecy that surrounds AIDS, so that individuals and families living with AIDS will no longer be forced to suffer in silence. For ~~Gugu Dlamini~~, the 36 year old mother in South Africa who was stoned to death by her neighbors for going public with her HIV status, and for the many others too afraid to seek help -- together -- we must learn to fight AIDS not people with AIDS.

Fourth, this battle will be won or lost at the community level. This is as true in Durban as it is in Detroit.

And finally, partnerships among all sectors are essential. ~~Go out B~~ AIDS is not just a health problem -- it is a development problem, a trade problem, a democracy and civil society problem, a security problem.

AIDS is everyone's problem -- and everyone must be part of the solution.

And it is now time for us to move from paper to practice -- and from words to deeds.

Beyond the old stereotypes and policies of paternalism, our shared vision is one of hope, of empowerment, of democracy, and of freedom. It is a vision of more than just compassion. It is a vision born of the realization that we are a global community with a shared destiny. And in this global community, both crisis and opportunity have no borders.

We are living in a time of great challenge. The destiny of millions of people hangs in the balance. The future of our children, our grandchildren, and theirs, hangs in the balance.

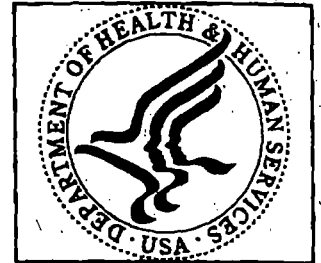
Let us commit together to not squander the loss of the nearly 14 million people around the world we have lost to AIDS, but instead build from this tragedy a foundation for hope, a legacy of compassion, and a partnership forged by our shared struggle.

In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, "Let us wage this holy war together. And for the sake of the children, we will win."

Thank you.

Office of HIV/AIDS Policy

Office of Public Health and Science
Office of the Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
Tel. (202) 690-5560



☐ Room 736-E

Fax. (202) 690-6584

Fax. (202) 690-7560

TO:

Sandy

FAX:

456-2079

FROM: Deborah von Zinkernagel
Deputy Director for Policy

(This fax contains _____ page(s) + cover)

*JM - I hear you're
chatting the folks
up fantastically!*

— D

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call Terrie Alvarez at (202) 690-5560

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1999

***REMARKS BY**
DONNA E. SHALALA
U.S. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TO

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
HEALTH BRAINTRUST MEETING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

***THIS TEXT IS THE BASIS OF SECRETARY SHALALA'S ORAL REMARKS.**
IT SHOULD BE USED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME
MATERIAL MAY BE ADDED OR OMITTED DURING PRESENTATION.

One of our country's great strengths is that when times are bad – our innate optimism leads us to find that elusive ray of hope.

And when times are good – as they are now – our innate sense of fairness leads us to find the shadow that's cast on the far side of the tree. We always need to light that shadow, to eliminate pockets of failure wherever we find them, and to make sure that no one in this land of plenty is left behind. That's why we're in the fight of our lives to protect the lives and health of African Americans.

By almost any measure, health outcomes for African Americans fall short of the general population. This is an enormous challenge – to both our public health system, and our conscience. And it is compounded by the fact that racial health disparities are often caused by a complex mix of factors, including education and cultural tradition, as well as economic status.

But no matter how deep and tangled the root of the problem – we must tear it up from the ground.

So let me be clear. This Administration – with great public health leaders like Surgeon General David Satcher, Drs. Jeff Koplan at CDC and Earl Fox at HRSA, and Sandy Thurman – will not give up until – in the words of Dr. King – we live out the true meaning of our creed.

That creed says we are all created equal – and we are all owed an equal chance at good health and long life.

There are no more vocal advocates for African American health than the Congressional Black Caucus. You've been holding our feet to the fire for a long time. So perhaps even now you're thinking: Calling for an equal chance at good health is a great ideal – but where's the money to pay for it? You're right. Improving the health of African Americans and other minorities will not come cheap. That's why the President has requested an unprecedented \$4.2 billion for minority health in the next fiscal year.

Nowhere is the gap in health outcomes for African Americans more apparent – and more tragic – than HIV/AIDS. Just last month, the CDC announced that AIDS deaths have continued to decline overall, although not as sharply they did between 1995 and 1997. More alarming, the CDC revealed that almost half of all AIDS deaths were African American, and AIDS remains the leading killer of African American men, 25 to 44 – and the second leading killer of African American women in the same age group.

Some of the reasons are well known: Too few African Americans are being encouraged to get tested. The cost of treatment is high. The regimen of pills is difficult to follow. And prevention messages have not been targeted enough – or accepted enough – in the African American community. But let me be clear: These obstacles will not deter us from doing the right thing.

That's why HIV/AIDS is one of six areas in which we're working to eliminate the gap between minorities and the general population. I'll mention the others shortly. But to make sure we're successful with HIV/AIDS, we're expanding our \$156 million dollar partnership with the Congressional Black Caucus. This year we're requesting a full \$171 million.

But more important, we working to get these funds into the hands of frontline leaders and African American health organizations without delay. That way we can build on the progress we've already made. In particular, we're going all out on outreach – helping individuals and groups that have never been helped before, in localities that have never had a seat at the table before.

We even have Crisis Response Teams that are targeting minority communities with a high concentration of HIV. The teams only come in at the request of political and health leaders at the community level – and include experts trained to meet the specific needs of each community. So in every way possible – our strategy is not top down. It's bottom up. It's about funding your projects. Implementing your ideas. And supporting your constituents.

Our CBC partnership is just one piece of a much larger effort against HIV/AIDS. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is now funding – to the tune of \$39 million dollars – comprehensive substance abuse prevention and treatment programs for African Americans and Hispanics with HIV/AIDS – or at risk for the disease. And today, I'm pleased to announce that our Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded an additional \$4 million dollars in planning grants under Ryan White. These funds will help public and private organizations improve HIV/AIDS care for African Americans in rural and underserved areas.

While HIV/AIDS in African American communities is a top public health priority for this Administration – we have set our sights on a much bigger target. As I mentioned, last year the President announced a commitment to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in six critical areas by the year 2010, and he backed up that commitment with \$400 million over five years.

With that money – and lots of teamwork – we hope to not only eliminate disparities in HIV/AIDS, but to have a winning scorecard that shows: Cancer screenings – no disparity. Diabetes – no disparity. Cardiovascular disease – no disparity. And immunization rates – no disparity.

Our commitment to eliminate major health disparities does not tell the full story of what we're doing to improve health and extend life for African American families. As you know, a large percentage of America's ten million uninsured children are African American. CHIP – our Children's Health Insurance Program – is up and running in every state. It will insure up to half of this country's uninsured children, and is a down payment on insuring them all.

We're also engaged in a major outreach campaign to find and sign up children for Medicaid. One of the places we're finding CHIP and Medicaid eligible children is in our expanded Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Head Start is not just about education. For many children, Head Start is their first contact ever with the public health system.

As the CBC knows all too well, we can't have a successful public health agenda – that protects African Americans – without help from Congress. That's why just last week, the President called on Congress to give all Americans a strong Patient Bill of Rights, strong privacy protection for their medical records, strong incentives to help the disabled succeed in the workplace, and a Medicare program that is modernized and ready for the 21st century. That means extending the life of the Trust Fund another 25 years, and including a prescription drug program that is voluntary, dependable and affordable.

Opponents of the President's plan say that it's not needed. Well here are the facts: Seventy-five percent of Medicare beneficiaries do not have dependable private sector coverage, and one-third – that's 13 million people – have no coverage at all. By the way, half of those 13 million have incomes below 150 percent of poverty.

So we have our work cut out for us. We need to work day and night to close racial and ethnic health disparities, to improve treatment and prevention services in minority communities, to fund programs on the local level so that the people who best understand the community are making the decisions, and to continue the historic partnership between the Congressional Black Caucus and this Administration.

We will win this fight – because it is just. Because we are committed. And because this is a cause where the fruits of victory will benefit not only African Americans – but all Americans.

Thank you.

DONALD M. PAYNE
10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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AND THE WORKFORCE

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YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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September 29, 1999

Ms. Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Thurman,

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to participate as a panelist at the Congressional Black Caucus Foreign Affairs Brain Trust panel. Your remarks were insightful as evidenced by the in-depth discussions and strong level of crowd participation. In my opinion, the interaction and dialogue was very succinct and informative.

By its very nature a brain trust is meant to be followed-up; ostensibly, I will be asking you to participate in a follow-up meeting in a couple of months. I will hold more forums of this kind to continue to promote increasing awareness of the changing situations facing the African continent.

I truly appreciate your participation and I look forward to seeing you at our next scheduled meeting. Once again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress

*Thank you
for your
interest!*



Congressional Black Caucus

Congressional Black Caucus

Of the Congress of the United States

1711 Longworth HOB - Washington, DC 20515 - Ph (202) 225-1790. Fx (202) 225-5517

September 29, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman,

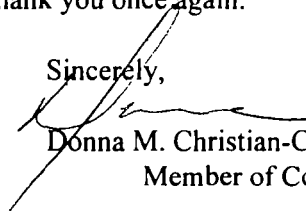
As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus's (CBC) Health Braintrust, I would like to thank you for your participation as a speaker at the CBC's Health Braintrust held during the recent Annual Legislative Conference. Our Thursday, September 16 session on *USAfrica Confronting the Global AIDS Crisis in the New Millenium* was an unqualified success and due in no small part to your participation.

We had a unique opportunity for legislators, global health care officials, community based organizations and people living with AIDS to critically examine international AIDS policies; including the U.S. Congressional State of Emergency Declaration, and their effectiveness in meeting the demands of global populations threatened by HIV and AIDS.

As you may know, the Health Braintrust helps to formulate legislative policy for the CBC and in turn provides leadership in working for quality health services for people of color across the United States. We are working to prepare a proceedings of the event and will be happy to share a copy with you.

Thank you once more for being a part of the activities. I am sure that we will have occasion to work together again in the future. If you have need of my assistance, please call my executive assistant Monique Clendinen at (202) 226-7973 at your earliest convenience. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,


Donna M. Christian-Christensen
Member of Congress

DCC/mc

We've also taken up the fight for international AIDS & you


Honorable James Clyburn,
Chairman, CBC

Honorable Donna Christian-Christensen,
Chairman, CBC Health Braintrust

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Contact: Monique Clendinen
(202) 225 - 1790