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National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA) International Working Group, 7/23/99

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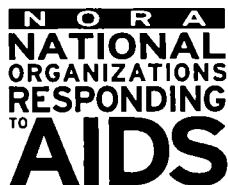
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July 26, 1999

Sandra Thurman, Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

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ASSOCIATION

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Miguelina Maldonado
NATIONAL MINORITY AIDS
COUNCIL

Matthew McClain
CAEAR COALITION

Jane Silver
AFRICAN FOUNDATION
FOR AIDS RESEARCH

Dear Ms. Thurman:

On behalf of the NORA International Working Group, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the meeting that your office held with the NORA International Working Group on Friday July 23, 1999. It was a very important and informative meeting that clarified several questions the members of the working group had concerning the President's initiative. Again, we are very grateful for all of your work and commend you for creating an historic and critically important international initiative.

As we mentioned in the meeting, we would be more than pleased to lend your office any support needed in implementing this plan. We are currently drafting and circulating for signature a thank you letter to the President. This letter will highlight our appreciation for the initiative and also indicate our commitment to making sure this increase is multi-year and binding.

We would also like to take the opportunity to follow-up on several important points raised during our meeting. As you are well aware, the NORA International Working Group represents a variety of domestic and international NGOs/PVOs with programs focused on international HIV/AIDS. As domestic and international NGOs with extensive experience in the field, we are keenly aware of the issues that surround HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. We would like to share the insights gained and lessons learned from this experience to ensure the effectiveness of the initiative. Therefore, we strongly urge your office to include the participation of a person living with HIV/AIDS and representatives from domestic and international NGOs in the Leadership Meeting to be held in Washington D.C. on September 7, 1999. We also support the participation of representatives from indigenous NGOs and US-based institutions in several of the other meetings discussed in this initiative. We believe, considering that some of these organization have extensive experience in implementing programs in sub-Saharan Africa, that their participation will assist in providing valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of enhancing national and international HIV/AIDS programs in the region.

Finally, we welcome your endorsement of having an NGO observer on the interagency task force. We look forward to observing these meetings and gaining a better understanding of the task force and the representative agencies.

NORA

A coalition convened by
AIDS Action Council

1906 Sunderland Place, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202 530 8030
202 530 8031 fax

"A coalition of over 175 organizations responding to AIDS with resolve and action."

Thank you for your time and consideration to these matters. We look forward to meeting with you again at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

NORA, International Working Group Co-Chairs
Mary Lyn Field, ICRW
Rebecca Firestone, CHANGE
Paul Boneberg, GAAN
Kim Green, Global Health Council