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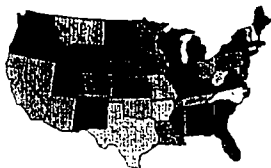
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RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION TOWN MEETING



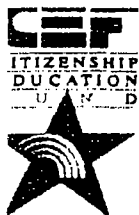
*“Stemming the Tide:
How Can We Respond to the Global AIDS Pandemic?”*

**Thursday, August 5th, 1999
9:45 am – 12:45 pm
McCormick Place South
2301 South Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, IL**

Hosted by Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
Founder and President, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition
U.S. Special Envoy for the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights in Africa

Panelists

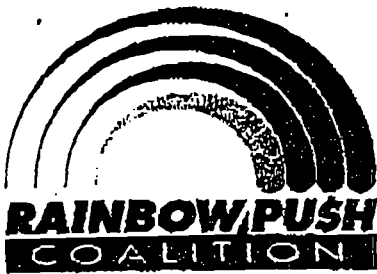
- Dr. Peter Piot - Executive Director, UNAIDS, World Health Organization (Geneva)**
- **Ms. Sandra Thurman - Director, White House Office of National AIDS Policy**
 - **Dr. Paul Delay - Division Chief, HIV/AIDS Program, USAID**
 - **Dr. Gary Slutkin - Professor, Epidemiology & International Health, University of Illinois at Chicago**
 - **Ms. Debra Fraser-Howze - President/CEO National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS**
 - **Mr. Urban Johnson - Regional Director, East & South Africa Regional Office, UNICEF (Kenya)**
 - **Dr. Debrework Zewdie – HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Reproductive Health Specialist for Africa Region, World Bank**



**Annual Conference
“Building Bridges... Building Hope”
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TO		FROM	
NAME: Mrs. Sandra L. Thurman		NAME: Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.	
TITLE: Director		TITLE:	
ORGANIZATION: White House National AIDS Policy		TELEPHONE: (202) 333-5270	
FAX: 456-2438		FAX:	
DATE: 5/25/00	TIME:	# OF PAGES (INCLUDE COVER) 03	

COMMENTS

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JACKSON

5/21/00

AFRICA'S AGONY

By Jesse Jackson

Africa's agony seems to know no end: war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, brutal upheaval in Sierra Leone, turmoil in Zimbabwe, the continued suffering in Angola, an AIDS plague that threatens to destabilize sub-Saharan Africa. The hope that beckoned when President Clinton made his historic journey to Africa fades with each passing day.

Africa's leaders, fiercely independent, know that, in the end, Africa is responsible for its own future. Africa's people must find a way to overcome old enmities, to live together rather than die separately, to sidestep the horrors of globalization even as they seek to harvest its benefits. Africa's proud peoples have been ravaged by slavery, colonialism, dictators propped up as Cold War pawns and other people's wars. Africa is burdened with paying its debts to the North, while the countries that exploited it for decades acknowledge no debt in return. There is plenty of blame to go around. But in the end, Africa's peoples must take care of their own house.

What we can do is limited but vital. Recently, the Clinton administration showed what is possible -- by pushing the pharmaceutical industry to waive copyright protections and to lower prices on drugs that might help those afflicted with the AIDS virus. But far more is necessary. Few Africans will be able to afford even the lower cost drugs. Prevention and education are vital and need more resources to be successful. The global community should be moving aggressively to build effective health-delivery systems in the afflicted African countries. The U.N. agencies report that will take a few billion dollars a year. On this, we have the wallet, but not yet the will.

And mobilization against AIDS is but a first step. Africa continues to send more resources in debt repayment to the North than it receives in aid from the North. Africa spends twice as much paying debts to foreign creditors than it does on basic health care. In three heavily indebted countries -- Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso -- fees have driven primary-school attendance under 30 percent. The burden of past debts stamps out hope for the future. Mothers can't get adequate health care and nutrition. Babies are born weak and low-weight. Sickly children have a harder time learning. Even those that are strong can't afford to pay fees to schools that the governments can't fund. The next generation goes without education. The cycle of misery is repeated and worsened -- as Africa's poor fall further and further behind.

Pope John Paul II -- joined by religious leaders, human-rights groups, development groups and others -- has named Jubilee Year 2000 as an appropriate time for biblical relief, for forgiveness of "international debt that is oppressing many countries of the world like a millstone." The U.N. Development Program calls upon the richest nations of the world to "end the debt crisis for the poorest countries. The meager financial costs contrast with the appalling human costs of inaction." Debt forgiveness can be linked to commitments of greater investment in health care and education. These poor countries can be relieved of debts that they will never

be able to pay -- much of which were incurred by dictators propped up by the West in the Cold War years.

The G-7 -- the council of the wealthiest countries in the world -- has offered debt relief of sorts. But it conditions the relief on countries meeting exacting economic conditions, all designed to force them to open up to global investors and follow an extremely rigid set of laissez-faire economic guidelines. The result is that few countries are close to being eligible for relief, and Uganda alone has received any significant relief.

The U.S. Congress just passed the Africa trade bill, opening U.S. markets to African exports. But this bill also dictates various conditions and, in any case, will make little difference to Africa's plight. What few seem to realize is that many African countries are already among the most integrated into the global economy. They export a greater percentage of their production than the United States does. They are forced to even service the debts that they can never hope to repay. But as the price of their crops, minerals and clothing declines on the global market, they fall behind. Integration is not sufficient. They need the space to breathe, the ability to use their earnings to invest at home.

In the biblical tradition, debt forgiveness is not charity; it is simple justice -- a cleaning of the slates, a new start, redemption of hope. It cannot solve Africa's agonies -- only Africans can do that. But even if you can't save a man suffering from a heart attack, you can at least take your thumb off his windpipe while he battles for his life.

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For release Sunday, May 21, 2000

END



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June 20, 2000

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
White House Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a letter that I sent to Ron Dellums, Chair, Presidential Advisory Council on AIDS. The intent of the letter was to support his continued leadership concerning HIV/AIDS both domestic and internationally. I also wanted to share with him the funding policy recommendations developed this year by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and members of its PUSH for Life advisory board. I would like for you to review the attachments in hope that when developing your annual budget submissions that our recommendations will be included. Although we have nine categorical areas worthy of increase funding we are at a minimum requesting monies allocated for three specific areas:

Care and Treatment for All: There currently are 200,000 to 300,000 asymptomatic HIV patients who fall outside the programs funded by HRSA and HFCA. Informal discussions with HFCA suggest that it will cost about \$5 billion annually to expand Medicaid coverage to include these persons. Our FY01 recommendations call for appropriating sufficient funding to allow an additional 50,000-asymptomatic persons, who currently receive no care, access to treatment via ADAP. Additionally, \$250 million is requested to support a Medicaid demonstration that expands coverage in a select number of states. These FY01 request, should be considered interim recommendations, with the goal of ultimately providing access to treatment and care for all HIV-infected persons, particularly those who currently fall outside the system, many of whom are low-income persons of color.

Correctional Health Care: Currently, HIV disease is 8 to 10 times higher in our nation's jails and prisons. Because of high turn over rates in our nation's confinement facilities, people in these institutions return to the community. If they have access to care in the institution but fail to receive follow-up services upon release, they may be likely to develop treatment-resistant strains of HIV, T.B., and hepatitis and potentially infect others in the community with these diseases. The point is not to contribute to labeling inmates as disease carriers or social pariah, but rather to recognize the historical connection between poverty, race, and incarceration and to view inmates as a part of a community both inside and outside the institutional setting. The interaction between these institutions and the larger community represents an opportunity for education, treatment, and prevention, but it also carries the risk of further infection if these linkages are not established and maintained. This connection in combination with the disproportionate incarceration of poor people of color places correctional

O. Barrow
PUSH
Coalition

NOTE: Though Jackson claims to have forwarded a letter ~~from~~ from him to Dellums, I did not receive such a letter.

X-
We should call when such pieces are missing. Just let me know, and I can call. OK? Debi

Sheryl: This is the letter I need. Thanks! Debi

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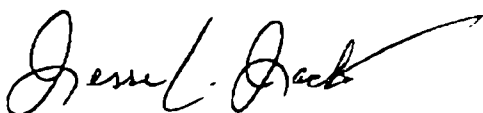
The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
Page 2.

health care at the center of any systemic plan to improve the delivery of health care services in low-income minority communities.

Capacity Building/Technical Assistance & Resource Centers: There is a need to locate regionally and locally based technical assistance and resource sites directly in communities of color. Moreover, funds should be provided to minority-managed entities to operate these sites in collaboration with academic, governmental and community-based organizations. **The establishment and consistent funding of regional and local sites will provide the infrastructure needed not only to systematically address HIV, but other health disparities concerns for years to come.**

As you can see from the attachments, these are sound and well thought out recommendations and I hope that you will consider them while developing your annual budget submissions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 333-5270.

Sincerely,



Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

CC: Lydia L. Watts

↑
NOTE: This last comm
sounds like Rainbow
thinks the Pres. "dev
his budget in June,
not Dec./Jan., which
actually the case.

John:
The 2001 budget is
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during that effort.
☺ The



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June 6, 2000

The Honorable Ronald Dellums
Chairman
Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the continued leadership and vision you consistently have displayed in addressing domestic and international issues related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Your efforts in this area truly are to be commended. Additionally, the contributions of Sandra Thurman, Helene Gayle, David Satcher, Eric Goosby, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, others on the Advisory Council, and throughout the Department of Health and Human Services spectrum, truly are appreciated. Your collective efforts have played a critical role in targeting resources to communities desperately in need of assistance, particularly the African American community and other communities of color.

In your capacity as Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, I am writing to ask that you and others affiliated with the Administration support the increased funding needed in FY01 and FY02 to permanently curtail the pandemic here in the United States, as well as in other parts of the world, particularly Africa, where the epidemic has reached catastrophic proportions.

Even more specifically, during your Council deliberations, I ask that you review and adopt the funding policy recommendations developed this year by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and members of its PUSH for Life advisory board. Additionally, I ask that proactive steps be taken by the Administration to develop a comprehensive long-term funding strategy that will address most effectively the education, prevention, research and treatment challenges confronting and disproportionately affecting communities of color. The goal should be to work with the CBC, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other stakeholder organizations to develop a multi-year plan of action that will be incorporated into the President's annual budget submissions.

In an effort to ultimately curtail this epidemic, particularly on the domestic front, first and foremost, let me say that a key objective should be to ensure that all persons infected with HIV have access to care and treatment, including asymptomatic patients. Our current policies related to the care of HIV infected persons are penny wise and pound foolish, and can be best described as a crucible for disaster. Currently, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 persons receive no care, either through Medicaid or governmentally funded drug programs. Moreover, there appears to be no action at the federal level to address this situation. With this as background, a brief summary of the PUSH for Life recommendations follows and more detailed materials that were prepared for the CBC as part of its deliberations are attached. For FY01, funding is requested for nine initiatives, totaling close to \$2 billion. Specifically, the following requests were made in the designated categorical areas.

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Janice L. Mathis, *General Counsel*

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, *Founder & President*

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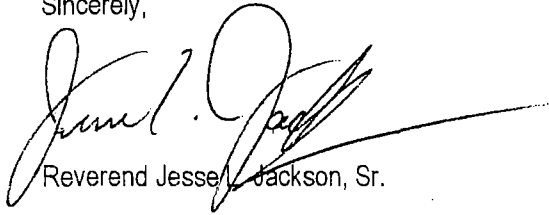
Care and Treatment for All: There currently are 200,000 to 300,000 asymptomatic HIV patients who fall outside the programs funded by HRSA and HFCA. Informal discussions with HFCA suggest that it will cost about \$5 billion annually to expand Medicaid coverage to include these persons. Our FY01 recommendations call for appropriating sufficient funding to allow an additional 50,000 asymptomatic persons, who currently receive no care, access to treatment via ADAP. Additionally, \$250 million is requested to support a Medicaid demonstration that expands coverage in a select number of states. <u>These FY01 request should be considered interim recommendations, with the goal of ultimately providing access to treatment and care for all HIV-infected persons, particularly those who currently fall outside the system, many of whom are low-income persons of color.</u>	• \$250 million for Medicaid Demonstration for asymptomatic HIV-infected persons • \$1.2 billion for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (representing a \$600 million increase)
Correctional Healthcare: There is a huge gap in terms of surveillance, testing, treatment, substance abuse and continuity of care issues affecting correctional settings. Comprehensive strategies involving both public health and corrections are desperately needed.	• \$29.2 million for OMH Correctional Healthcare Training initiative • \$32.0 million for CDC surveillance initiative • \$21.0 million for CDC continuity of care project expansion
Capacity Building/Technical Assistance & Resource Centers: There is a need to locate regionally and locally based technical assistance and resource sites directly in communities of color. Moreover, funds should be provided to minority-managed entities to operate these sites in collaboration with academic, governmental and community-based organizations. The establishment and consistent funding of regional and local sites will provide the infrastructure needed not only to systematically address HIV, but other health disparities concerns for years to come.	• \$74.0 million for a comprehensive intra-agency technical assistance initiative targeting 14 sites across the country
Substance Abuse Treatment: Injection drug users represent approximately 30% of all new AIDS cases in African American community. More comprehensive strategies and additional dollars are needed.	• \$16.2 million for substance abuse initiative
Adolescents: We must provide education and prevention programs for youth to ultimately curtail the epidemic and reverse the "horse-behind-the wagon" pattern of funding at The federal level.	• \$325 million
Childbearing/Pregnant Women: HIV incidence among African American women represents 60 percent of all new AIDS cases among women. Approximately 7,000 children are born to HIV-infected mothers each year, with children of color being disproportionately represented (61%).	• \$7.5 million for a demonstration project, targeting at-risk pregnant women.

The Honorable Ronald Dellums
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In addition to these recommendations, I also would like to acknowledge that a number of national and community-based minority organizations have played critical roles in helping to bring heightened awareness and resources to this issue and in providing services to those at-risk, as well as those who are infected with the virus. These efforts must be recognized, endorsed and strengthened through federal funding.

I want to thank you for this opportunity and I would like to wish you continued success. Should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (202) 333-5270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

Enclosure

cc: Lydia L. Watts
Anita R. Estell
Push for Life Advisory Board

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February 24, 2000, Thursday 7:01 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS

DISTRIBUTION: TO NATIONAL EDITOR AND MEDICAL EDITOR

LENGTH: 914 words

HEADLINE: Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. to Address 2000 National Conference on **African**-Americans and Aids;
-**HIV/AIDS** Epidemic Continues to Rise in the **African**-American Community -

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 24

BODY:

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., president and founder of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will give opening remarks today at the 2000 National Conference on **African**-Americans and AIDS. The Conference is a forum that brings together public health officials, medical and AIDS service organizations, faith-based ministries and corrections experts in order to address the growing health concern of **HIV/AIDS** in the **African**-American community. This annual conference is especially important since the incidence of **HIV/AIDS** cases in the **African**-American community continues to rise at alarming rates.

HIV/AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in the **African**-American community. **HIV/AIDS** is the number one cause of death for Black men and the second leading cause of death for Black women ages 25 to 44 -- before heart disease, cancer and homicide. In recent years, the estimated incidence of **HIV/AIDS** has declined for every race except **African**-Americans.

"While **African**-Americans represent only 13 percent of the US population, they account for 57 percent of new infections of HIV and nearly 50 percent of AIDS cases. By the year 2005, they will account for 60 percent of AIDS cases," said Eric Goosby, M.D., Director of the Office of **HIV/AIDS** Policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Unfortunately, there is still a severe health crisis in the **African**-American community. This conference is an excellent means to bring together healthcare professionals, clergy, public and private business sectors and people infected and affected by **HIV/AIDS** to address this critical health epidemic."

In 1998, the Congressional Black Caucus asked the Secretary of Health and Human Services to call a "State of Emergency" regarding **HIV/AIDS** in **African**-American communities. In response to that "State of Emergency," dozens of **African**-American AIDS activists, educators and health professionals, including Rev. Jackson, joined forces with other **African**-American leaders and institutions to develop a strategic action plan to stop **HIV/AIDS** infection in their communities. Rev. Jackson is dedicated to developing a public awareness campaign that promotes a powerful image of national leaders uniting to stop the spread of **HIV/AIDS** in communities of color.

"Despite consistent efforts to draw attention to this issue, the **HIV/AIDS** epidemic continues to increase in the **African**-American population at disproportionate rates," said Rev. Jackson. "In order to address this important health issue, we must unite to discuss the **HIV/AIDS** problem in our communities. It is critical that we translate our discussions into targeted, long-lasting solutions for people who are most at risk."

Discussions at the conference will focus on issues such as the epidemiology of **HIV/AIDS** in the U.S., the disconnect between the American healthcare system and the **African**-American community, **HIV/AIDS** in women, and the role of faith-based ministries. This year's conference will feature presentations and remarks by major public health figures such as Rev. Jackson; Donna Shalala, Secretary

of Health and Human Services; Sandra L. Thurman, Director, White House Office on **HIV/AIDS** Policy; Helene Gayle, Director of the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and A. Cornelius Baker, Executive Director of the Whitman Walker Clinic. Also featured will be medical experts such as Dr. Goosby; Stephen Thomas, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Minority Health Research, Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University; and John G. Bartlett, M.D., Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

"We applaud the involvement of such prominent leaders in tackling this serious epidemic," stated Dr. Bartlett. "As we continue to address **HIV/AIDS** in the **African**-American community, we need consistent public attention that is focused on reducing new infections in this population."

Program highlights added to the 2000 conference agenda will address Medicare and Medicaid, an update on Ryan White and continuity of clinical care in corrections. In addition to the conference, The AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display for public viewing. Started in 1987, the Quilt has remained one of the world's most recognized and visceral symbols of the AIDS pandemic. With over 80,000 names on the Quilt, this unique and profound memorial connects communities, families and friends by illustrating the diversity of the lives lost to the **HIV/AIDS** epidemic.

The 2000 National Conference on **African**-Americans and AIDS will be held February 24-25, 2000 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. and is being sponsored by The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The conference is being supported through an unrestricted educational grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology. Full audio and slide presentations of the conference will be available on <http://www.hopkins-aids.edu> in April.

For questions about **HIV/AIDS** and for educational materials, call the CDC National **HIV/AIDS** Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS.

SOURCE Bristol-Meyers Squibb Immunology and Johns Hopkins University

CONTACT: Shanna Duncan of Nelson Public Relations, 202-841-8863, sduncan@nelsonpr.com, for Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology; or Kate O'Rourke of Johns Hopkins, 410-955-8665, korourke@jhmi.edu

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February 24, 2000, Thursday 7:00 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

DISTRIBUTION: TO NATIONAL AND MEDICAL EDITORS

LENGTH: 1023 words

HEADLINE: Rev. Jesse Jackson Leads Call to Action to Fight **HIV/AIDS** Stigma Among **African-Americans**;
-National Leaders and Celebrities Get HIV Test at Local D.C. Clinic -

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 24

BODY:

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., president and founder of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, surrounded by other prominent leaders, called for more grassroots initiatives and government action to address the **HIV/AIDS** epidemic within the **African-American** community. This announcement was made earlier today at the Max Robinson Center of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, a local AIDS clinic in one of Washington, D.C.'s predominately **African-American** neighborhoods. Rev. Jackson and other community leaders urged the **African-American** community to "get tested, get treated" by getting publicly tested to show the significance of knowing your HIV status. Learning to prevent risky behavior, knowing your HIV status, and -- if positive -- getting treatment, can help turn the tide on this epidemic and can lead people toward living a more productive life. The call to action was made in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins University 2000 National Conference on **African-Americans** and AIDS.

Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk

Rev. Jackson and actor Dennis Haysbert of the CBS series "Now and Again" and "Break the Silence" spokesperson, attended a prevention counseling (pre-test counseling) session. Prevention counseling is usually conducted in a group setting and provides information on **HIV, AIDS**, risk reduction and safe sex. After registering for the test and attending the pre-counseling session, Rev. Jackson and the others completed the testing procedure. The Max Robinson Center uses an oral HIV antibody test, not a blood test. The Max Robinson Center also offers follow up, post-test counseling sessions and test results.

This program will be held at the Max Robinson Center of Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C. and is being supported through an unrestricted educational grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology.

"As leaders in the community, we can't just talk the talk, we must walk the walk," said Rev. Jackson as he and the others were publicly tested to learn their own HIV status. "I want to send a message to every **African-American** that does not know his or her **HIV/AIDS** status to get tested. We hope that by addressing this issue, people will begin to believe that the system does work ... your records will be kept confidential. I want people to know that if you are HIV-positive, and you get into treatment, you can live long, healthy, happy and productive lives. But the first step is to get tested. The next step is to get treated."

Earlier today, Rev. Jackson spoke to the more than 1,000 experts from many backgrounds at the 2000 National Conference on **African-Americans** and AIDS. Health professionals from around the country joined together to learn the best ways to educate **African-Americans** about this serious epidemic.

"There are many different ways that a person can contract the **HIV/AIDS** virus, including engaging in unprotected sex and sharing of needles," stated Rev. Jackson. "We need serious educational programs that

stress the importance of prevention. Friends, family members, and teachers all need to be a part of this ongoing fight to spread the word about behaviors that increase the risk of getting this disease."

Still the Number One Killer

AIDS is still the number one killer of **African**-American men and the second leading killer of **African**-American women between the ages of 25 and 44 -- before homicide, heart disease or motor vehicle accidents. More than 86,000 **African**-Americans died from AIDS in the U.S. between 1993 and 1998 -- Washington, D.C. has one of the highest HIV infection rates for **African**-Americans of any major city in the U.S. The District of Columbia has one of the highest HIV infection rates of any world capital.

"We are proud to be part of this call to action today," stated A. Cornelius Baker, incoming Executive Director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. "As a community based organization, we know first hand how this epidemic is devastating the **African**-American community and how grassroots interventions can work. If we want to address AIDS in the **African**-American community, we need continued public attention that shows that it is okay to know your HIV status. Today, getting tested is safe, easy and above all, can save your life."

The Max Robinson Center (MRC) of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, named after the nation's first **African**-American network news anchor who died from AIDS in 1988, has been providing **HIV/AIDS** services for clients living in southeast D.C. since 1992. The MRC serves an area east of the Anacostia River that traditionally has been underserved and faces tremendous challenges when it comes to primary healthcare and **HIV/AIDS** services.

The National Rainbow/PUSH Coalition is a multiracial, multi-issue, international membership organization founded by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. The Coalition is working to move the nation and the world toward social, racial and economic justice. From the national headquarters in Chicago and a bureau in Washington, D.C., the organization is uniting people of diverse ethnic, religious, economic and political backgrounds to make America's promise of "liberty and justice for all" a reality.

The Second National Conference on **African**-Americans and AIDS is being held February 24-25, 2000 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. and is being sponsored by The Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. The conference is being supported through an unrestricted educational grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology. Full audio and slide presentations of the conference will be available on <http://www.hopkins-aids.edu> beginning April 2000.

For general questions about **HIV/AIDS** and for educational materials, call the CDC National **HIV/AIDS** Hotline at 800-342-AIDS.

SOURCE Max Robinson Center of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, Bristol-Myers Squibb

CONTACT: Shanna Duncan, 202-452-6500, or cell, 202-841-8863, sduncan@nelsonpr.com; or Mark Short of Bristol-Myers Squibb, 609-897-2742, pager, 800-341-7976, Mark.short@bms.com

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May 25, 2000

Sandra Thurman

Director

White House Office on National AIDS Policy

The White House

736 Jackson Place

Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman:

I am writing to request your participation as a panelist in the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's (RPC) National Town Hall meeting on HIV disease in the African American community. The theme of the meeting is ***What Would Jesus Do: Moving Beyond Judgment to Healing***. The purpose of the Town Hall meeting is to bring together national leaders representing many different disciplines to discuss HIV disease, its impact on the community and the necessary steps needed, to heal our community. The Town Hall meeting will take place during RPC's 29th annual conference, ***Moving from Margin to Mainstream*** and will be convened at the Chicago Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2000 from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

In addition to the Town Hall meeting, this year's conference will highlight issues and policies that RPC has been engaged in since the 1999 conference. These issues include but are not limited to: economic inclusion and empowerment; education, affirmative action; health care; labor relations; voter education and registration; police brutality and the criminal justice system and international relations. Our primary goal for this year's conference is to educate, build partnerships, advance dialogue and forge a plan of action among our constituents. I firmly believe, that the effectiveness of the Town Hall meeting will be predicated on your input. I also hope that in addition to participating in the Town Hall meeting that you will attend the conference and lend your expertise.

With July approaching, it is my hope that we can formalize this partnership as soon as possible. If you plan on participating as a panelist, ***please submit to Lydia L. Watts by Tuesday, June 1, 2000 a 4 x 6 black and white photo and a biographical sketch***. I have identified Ms. Watts, RPC's HIV/AIDS national director, as the primary contact. Ms. Watts will call you in the near future to determine your availability. If you have any questions, she can be reached at (202) 333-5270. Should you have any question regarding the annual conference, please feel free to contact Delores Elliott, Annual Conference Coordinator at (773) 373-3366.

Ms. Thurman
Page 2

I hope that your schedule permits your participation and I appreciate your support and commitment. I am also confident that as we work together with one voice, we can make a difference in healing our community and erasing the stigma associated with AIDS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Jackson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
Founder & President
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

JLJ/llw

Cc: Lydia L. Watts
Dolores Elliott

The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition PUSH for Life HIV/AIDS Initiative

AGENDA

Subject: National Town Hall Meeting on HIV/AIDS in the African American Community

Theme: Ending the Silence and Ending the Epidemic

Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Place: Chicago Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Goal: To bring together national leaders representing different disciplines to discuss HIV disease, its impact on the community and the necessary steps needed, to collectively and comprehensively, eradicate HIV disease in the United States in general and the African-American community in particular.

Objective #1: To develop a one voice, one agenda campaign that promotes aggressive mobilization efforts around HIV education and prevention, early identification and the treatment and care of African American individuals infected and affected by HIV disease.

Objective #2: To build and/or forge partnerships that advance personal, professional and political dialogue among the African American community regarding its role in the eradication of HIV disease.

Objective #3: To educate policy makers regarding the scarcity of resources available to communities of color, particularly primary and secondary prevention programs and in doing so, advocate for increase funding from government services by creating a higher level of commitment for federal funding in the FY 2001 budget by a minimum of \$1 billion, targeted at minority CBOs serving African Americans.

Confirmed Panelist:

- Cheryl Martin, Anchor, BET
- Dr. Luis Sullivan, President, Morehouse School of Medicine
- Dr. Helene Gayle, Director of the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Founder and President, Rainbow PUSH Coalition

- Sandra Thurman, Director, The White House Office on National AIDS Policy
- Anita R. Estell, Esq., Vice President Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.
- Debra Frazier Howe, President & CEO, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
- Ervin "Magic" Johnson, President Magic Johnson Foundation
- Mr. Sidney Thomas, Director of Operations, Ambulatory Care and Community Health Networks
- Rae Lewis-Thornton, President, Rae Lewis-Thornton, Inc.
- Dr. Lisa Henry Reid, Chair, Adolescent Medicine, CORE Center
- Dr. Cassandra Newkirk, Chair, National Alliance for Minority Correctional Health Care Providers

This program is produced by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition in collaboration with Black Entertainment Television (BET).

For More Information

Contact:

Lydia L. Watts, MJ

202-333-5270



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