

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title: AIDS Policy				
Staff Office-Individual: Counsel's Office-Neuwirth, Stephen				
Original OA/ID Number: CF 377				
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DRAFT

April 3, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR STEVE NEUWIRTH**FROM: Patsy Fleming****SUBJECT: Internships with the Office of National AIDS Policy**

The National AIDS Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization based in Washington that works to promote public-private sector partnerships on AIDS, has approached this Office about the possibility of funding interns to work with us this summer.

The National AIDS Fund has played a particularly important role, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control, in developing the Prevention Marketing Initiative on HIV/AIDS targeting young people with HIV prevention messages. The Fund has proposed supporting several young people to work with ONAP staff in the preparation of our report on the state of the epidemic among adolescents.

The National AIDS Fund would raise the funds to support these interns; they would also select the most eligible candidates. We would have the option to accept or reject candidates the Fund has selected. The interns would work during the summer months of 1995. They would work under the supervision of ONAP staff, though there would be activities sponsored by the National AIDS Fund that would supplement their experience at our office.

I am writing to inquire as to whether this arrangement would be appropriate and under what conditions we might accept these interns.

Jeremy-Jule Copy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA
ERSKINE BOWLES

From: Carol H. Rasco 
Subject: Office of National AIDS Policy

I want to bring you up to date on some significant issues relating to the Office of National AIDS Policy. This fall, when we agreed to make the Director and Deputy Director members of the White House staff, we understood that both the funding for the office and additional staff would have to be supplied by other agencies. We have encountered significant problems that need to be addressed immediately:

- o We have been unable to finalize arrangements with HHS for funding for either the office or the Advisory Council.
- o We have been unable to bring any additional staff to work for the Office because the agencies have generally been unwilling to provide staff as agency representatives.
- o Without the funding finalized, we have not completed the legal paperwork necessary to establish the AIDS Advisory Council, which therefore has not been named. Public and advocacy pressure on this front is building.
- o Congressional offices are starting to inquire about the funding and status of the office. Senator Burns' office called to find out how it was funded, and Congressman Porter has circulated a letter to his appropriations subcommittee indicating that he is against transferring funds from HHS to run the office.

My staff and Patsy Fleming have been trying for weeks to solve the funding and staffing problems. Erskine Bowles even sent letters to eight selected Secretaries asking them to designate agency representatives by last week. Only one person responded, Shirley Chater from SSA, and she said SSA was "too small to be able to delegate someone." HHS is maintaining it can't find \$300,000 to fund this operation anywhere in its budget.

I raise this to your attention because we are at severe risk of embarrassment and anger from the AIDS community if these problems are not solved soon. My office and Patsy have exhausted our ability to try to make this happen, and we need help from other parts of the White House. These are the steps that need to happen:

1. Someone has to tell HHS to provide the funding. If HHS has a concern about the appropriators, we need to meet as soon as possible and decide what our alternative funding strategy will be. This will be an issue not just for this year but FY96 as well.
2. Somehow Erskine's letters to the Cabinet and agency heads need to be followed up with the strong message that we need them to designate staff now.
3. With funding and staffing resolved, the General Counsel's office can finalize the interagency agreements and Charter necessary to set up the Advisory Council. The names have been vetted and cleared and can be announced as soon as the legal paperwork has been complete.
4. We need to get a read from Legislative Affairs as to how serious an issue the funding transfer from HHS to the White House will be - and if necessary consider how we will fund this operation out of the White House budget next year.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 16, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA
ERSKINE BOWLES
PAT GRIFFIN
ABNER MIKVA

From: Carol H. Rasco 
Subject: Funding for Office of National AIDS Policy

This is a quick follow-up to my note last week on the problems facing the AIDS office. HHS received formal notification from Congressman Porter, Chair of the HHS Appropriations Subcommittee that he was not approving the reprogramming of funding for the Office or the Ounce of Prevention Council. I have attached all the correspondence for your information.

This only confirms the fears I raised last week about our ability to support this operation. I have asked Jennifer to set a meeting to discuss this and other issues relating to the Office as soon as possible.

cc: Jodie Torkelson
Steve Neuwirth
Patsy Fleming

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015
February 7, 1995

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Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

This letter is in response to your reprogramming letters of November 18, 1994 that were addressed to the Chairman of this Subcommittee in the last session of Congress. I apologize for the delay in responding. As you know, there has been a great deal of activity here during the past month.

The Subcommittee does not approve your proposal to utilize \$350,000 in the National AIDS Program Office to partially support the National AIDS Coordinator in the White House. In addition, the Subcommittee does not approve your proposal to utilize \$400,000 from funds appropriated under the Crime Bill to partially support the Ounce of Prevention Council.

Sincerely,

John Edward Porter, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies

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Congress of the United States
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Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 10, 1995

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 2457 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 INSIDE MAIL

Dear Nancy:

I received your letter regarding the proposed reprogramming of funds from the National AIDS Program Office (NAPO) to the National AIDS Policy Coordinator (NAPC).

I have two substantive concerns about the request. First, I feel it is inappropriate to transfer resources from public health agencies to the White House. In addition, because the conference committee on our bill dramatically reduced funding for NAPO from the House-passed level, I am reluctant to approve a further reduction in funding at this time.

Nancy, although we disagree on the matter of the reprogramming, I would be happy to discuss these matters with you in the context of the 1996 L/H/E bill, and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

John Edward Porter
 Member of Congress

JEP:mm

02/07/95 14:26

002/002

NANCY PELOSI
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(202) 225-4888

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0508

February 7, 1995

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CONGRESSIONAL WORKING GROUP
ON CHINA, CHAIR

The Honorable John Porter, Chairman
Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee
2358 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to urge your approval of the reprogramming request from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to use \$350,000 from funds appropriated for the National AIDS Program Office (NAPO) to partially support the office of the National AIDS Policy Coordinator (NAPC).

The budget justification from the Department made clear that NAPO funds were intended to support the coordination efforts within the Public Health Service and the coordination efforts across Departments by the National AIDS Policy Coordinator. The Interdepartmental Task Force on AIDS is designed to assure that the public health efforts of the PHS are integrated into the activities of other departments.

Data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released last week documented that "the magnitude of the epidemic is clearly greater than earlier statistics indicated." In my view, the Congress needs to work cooperatively with the Administration to do whatever is necessary to coordinate our national AIDS efforts.

Again, I urge you to approve the HHS reprogramming request and I look forward to working with you to respond to the many challenges created by the AIDS epidemic.

Sincerely,



NANCY PELOSI
Member of Congress

NP:sm

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Congress of the United States
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Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015
January 31, 1995

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Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Nancy:

I have enclosed for your review three pending reprogramming letters from two of our Departments. These letters were sent to the Subcommittee after Congress had adjourned last fall. The first letter is from the Department of Labor. It is a request to transfer \$3,806,000 from the State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations account to the Program Administration account of the Employment and Training Administration. The Program Administration account is the basic salaries and expenses account of the ETA. The funds would be transferred from excess postage funds in the State Operations account. The 1995 appropriations act provides the Department the legal authority to transfer money between appropriation accounts; there is an understanding, however, that any transfer would be treated as a reprogramming of funds.

The second letter is from the Department of Health and Human Services. It informs the Subcommittee of the Department's plans to use \$350,000 of funds appropriated to the National AIDS Program Office to partially support the National AIDS Policy Coordinator in the White House.

The third letter is also from the Department of Health and Human Services. It informs the Subcommittee of the Department's plans to use \$400,000 of funds appropriated to carry out a new crime prevention program authorized by last year's Crime Bill to partially support the Ounce of Prevention Council established by the Crime Bill.

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
January 31, 1995
Page Two

This Council cuts across several Cabinet Departments and is to be chaired by the Vice President. It is supposed to oversee the coordination of crime prevention programs in the Executive Branch.

I am presently inclined to turn down all three of these requests. Please let me know if you feel strongly about any of these.

Sincerely,

John Edward Porter, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies

Enclosures

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002/004



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

NOV 18 1994

The Honorable Neal Smith
Chairman Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

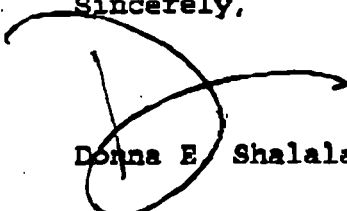
I am writing to inform you of our plans to use \$350,000 of FY 1995 funds appropriated for the National AIDS Program Office to partially support the National AIDS Policy Coordinator (NAPC). These funds were included within the appropriation account for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

I am fully aware that in your deliberations on the budget for this Office, a concern about the level of resources needed for directing and coordinating HIV/AIDS activities emerged. The Conference agreement specifies that \$1,750,000 is available for these purposes. As noted in our justification to the Committees, funding was requested to provide support to both the Assistant Secretary and the NAPC.

The \$350,000 identified for NAPC will be used to cover such expenses as rental of office space, communications, travel, supplies and equipment, and other support and contractual services. During FY 1995 the NAPC has been asked by the President to establish a new Interdepartmental Task Force on AIDS to ensure that HIV related activities of all Federal agencies are better coordinated and that inconsistencies in strategies and duplication of effort are eliminated.

I appreciate the Committee's continued interest in, and support of, this Department's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Sincerely,


Donna E. Shalala