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1. Budget

# AIDS Action

1906 Sunderland Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202/530-8030  
Fax: 202/530-8031  
[www.aidsaction.org](http://www.aidsaction.org)

## Fax

To: Ms. Sandy Thurman  
Director  
Office of National AIDS Policy

From: Julio C. Abreu  
Associate Director of Govt. Affairs  
202-530-8030 x3021  
[jabreu@aidaction.org](mailto:jabreu@aidaction.org)

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Fax: 456-2439

Pages: 3, including cover

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Phone:

Date: February 7, 2000

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Re: FY2001 Prevention Budget

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☐ Urgent

☐ For Review

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February 4, 2000

Honorable President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations would like to express our disappointment at your Fiscal Year 2001 HIV prevention budget outlined in your State of the Union address, which included a small but insufficient increase in HIV prevention funding. For the past several years, we have urged your Administration to end flat HIV prevention funding in order to make a dent in the 40,000 new infections that occur each year.

The FY2001 budget proposal includes a \$50 million increase in prevention funding, an amount that falls short of what we consider necessary for any meaningful new investments in HIV prevention. This year's budget increase is only slightly more than last year's increase that did not meet the need for HIV prevention activities throughout the country.

We were encouraged to learn in the January 3<sup>rd</sup> *U.S. News and World Report* that there was a plan to increase the federal investment in HIV prevention by \$100 million --- sending an important and much-needed message that America's leadership will no longer tolerate the 40,000 new HIV infections each year, half of which are among young people. We were excited at the prospect of having more resources available to focus on ameliorating these new infections. In fact, in a recent Harris poll, Americans favored spending a higher proportion of all health care dollars on prevention and health promotion by a margin of 46% to 23%. Over 90% of respondents claimed HIV/AIDS prevention as very important.

Given the increased burden on our community based organizations and health departments because fewer people with AIDS are dying, anything less than this substantial federal commitment would expose state and local governments to grapple with a public health crisis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released new data indicating that the decline in AIDS deaths is slowing down, highlighting the need for an increased investment in HIV prevention, especially among women and young gay men in communities of color. The CDC reports that AIDS remains the leading cause of death for African-Americans between the ages of 25 and 44.

However, more is needed if we are to combat this ever-evolving epidemic and take full advantage of the medical advances and risk reduction models proven to work. For example, the CDC estimates that there are over 300,000 Americans living with HIV who do not know their status. Our efforts to encourage people living with HIV to know their status and seek treatment and our strategies to prevent new infections must be targeted to

reach specific populations. Such targeted efforts will require a substantial investment if we are to realize the highest return for our efforts.

In the coming year, HIV will continue to infect nearly 3 young people (<25 years old) every hour of every day, as well as an increasing number of women and minorities. This is an incalculable loss to our nation's future. Yet these new infections could be prevented through community-based HIV strategies of proven effectiveness with the necessary resources.

For everyone at risk for HIV, we need a new generation of prevention efforts. We look forward to a refocusing of resources in the FY2001 budget for HIV prevention that may be captured before the formal release of your budget on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

American Nurses Association

Center for Women Policy Studies

National Council of La Raza

North American Syringe Exchange Network

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.

Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services:

Chicago Department of Public Health

Houston Department of Health and Human Services

Los Angeles County Office of AIDS Programs and Policy

New York City Department of Health

Philadelphia Department of Health

San Francisco Department of Health

cc: Honorable Donna Shalala  
Mr. Dan Mendelson  
Ms. Sandy Thurman  
Dr. Helene Gayle

## GLOBAL HIV/AIDS and GAVI

The FY 2001 Budget includes a \$100 million increase for the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative that was started in FY 2000 and a new \$50 million contribution for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI). In FY 2000, Congress appropriated \$108 million for the new Global HIV/AIDS Initiative, adding to the existing request of \$134 million (\$7 million in CDC, \$127 million in USAID). The table below shows the breakdown of funds for the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative and the GAVI:

### Global HIV/AIDS Initiative and GAVI (BA in Millions)

|                              | FY99       | FY 00      | FY01<br>Request<br>(Includes<br>Increment) | FY 01      | TOTAL<br>FY 00 +<br>FY 01 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| USAID                        | 135        | 190        | 244                                        | 54         | 434                       |
| USAID<br>(PL480 Food<br>AID) | 0          | 10         | 10                                         | 0          | 20                        |
| CDC                          | 7          | 42         | 68                                         | 26         | 110                       |
| Defense                      | 0          | 0          | 10                                         | 10         | 20                        |
| Labor                        | 0          | 0          | 10                                         | 10         | 10                        |
| Subtotal                     | 142        | 242        | 342                                        | 100        | 584                       |
| State<br>(IO&P)GAVI          | 0          | 0          | 50                                         | 50         | 50                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>142</b> | <b>242</b> | <b>392</b>                                 | <b>150</b> | <b>634</b>                |

Source: Office of Management and Budget

**Global HIV/AIDS:** The budget includes an additional \$100 million to expand the U.S. Government's prevention activities in combating the international AIDS pandemic, including \$54 million for USAID, \$26 million for CDC, and \$10 million each for DOD and DOL. In FY 2000, the Administration secured \$100 million over the FY 1999 spending level to begin a Global HIV/AIDS Initiative that would focus on preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS in the developing world. This Initiative includes activities to prevent perinatal transmission, care for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, build infrastructure, and treat opportunistic infections. In addition, this year DOL will begin international workplace HIV/AIDS prevention programs and DOD will provide prevention for host country military personnel.

***Global Vaccines:*** The budget also supports accelerating the development and distribution of vaccines for life-threatening diseases, such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Taken together, these three diseases kill approximately 7 million people annually, most of who are in the developing world. The budget includes a new \$50 million contribution through the Department of State for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations to fund vaccine purchase, vaccine research and development, and infrastructure development, to enhance access to life saving vaccines in developing countries.