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**NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
RESPONDING
TO
AIDS**

July 17, 1997

Co-chairs

David Harvey
AIDS POLICY CENTER FOR
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND
FAMILIES

Miguelina Maldonado
NATIONAL MINORITY AIDS
COUNCIL

The Honorable Sandy Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Executive Committee

Val Bias
NATIONAL HEMOPHILIA
FOUNDATION

Callie Gass
NATIONAL AIDS FUND

Rose Gonzalez
AMERICAN NURSES
ASSOCIATION

Byron J. Harris
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF
STATE AND TERRITORIAL
AIDS DIRECTORS

Christine Lubinski
AIDS ACTION COUNCIL

Jane Silver
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR
AIDS RESEARCH

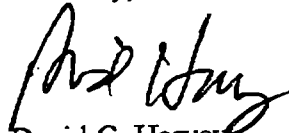
Winnie Stachelberg
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

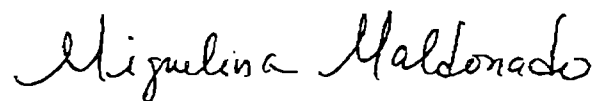
We are writing to respectfully request your support for increased funding for all federal AIDS programs in the Senate FY 1998 Labor/HHS Appropriations bill. We are deeply appreciative of the recent House Labor/HHS Appropriations subcommittee action which provided \$250 million in FY 1998 increases for federal AIDS care, prevention, and research programs. However, several programs, including CDC AIDS prevention, and Titles II, IIIb and IV of the Ryan White CARE Act, fell short of the President's FY 1998 budget request.

We urgently request that you address the funding needs of these programs in the context of the President's budget request and the NORA budget recommendations. For your information, we attach the NORA FY 1998 budget recommendations for federal AIDS programs, and strongly recommend that you consider these recommendations as the Senate begins deliberations on its FY 1998 Labor/HHS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


David C. Harvey
Co-Chair


Miguelina Maldonado
Co-Chair

NORA

A coalition convened by
AIDS Action Council

1875 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009
202 986 1300
202 986 1345 fax

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

From: Evan Gidney To: Christine Lubinski

Date: 7/17/97 Time: 10:45:04

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JUL-17-97 09:37 FROM: AIDS POLICY CENTER

ID: 2027853578

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FY 1998 Appropriations Levels For Federal AIDS Programs

(increases or decreases from the FY 97 numbers are in parentheses)
as of July 15, 1997

Program	FY 97 Appropriation	FY 98 President's Budget Request	FY 98 House Mark-up	FY 98 Senate Mark-up	FY 98 House Mark-up Change
FEDERAL PROGRAMS					
ADIC Programs	\$617m	\$634m (+17m)	\$829m (+212m)	\$622m (+5m) (8%)	
HRSA Ryan White CARE Act Fund	\$996.3m	\$1,036.3m (+40m)	\$1,390.2m (+393.9m)	\$1,168.3m (+172m) (17.3%)	
Task I	\$449.9m	\$454.9m (+5m)	\$546m (+96.1m)	\$471.6m (+21.7m) (4.8%)	
Task II: Case Services	\$250m	\$265m (+15m)	\$340m (+90m)	\$262m (+12m) (4.8%)	
Task III: ADAT	\$167m	\$167m (+0)	\$297.6m (+130.6m)	\$299m (+132m) (79%)	
Task HUD	\$69.6m	\$84.6m (+15m)	\$113.6m (+44m)	\$73m (+3.4m) (4.9%)	
Task IV	\$36m	\$40m (+4m)	\$61m (+25m)	\$37.7m (+1.7m) (4.7%)	
Task V: HIV	\$16.3m	\$17.3m (+1m)	\$23m (+6.7m)	\$17.1m (+.8m) (4.9%)	
Task V: Dental Reimbursement	\$7.5m	\$7.5m (+0)	\$9m (+1.5m)	\$7.9m (+.4m) (5.3%)	
NID Research	\$1,501.7m	\$1,541.7m (+40m)	\$1,636.2m (+134.5m)	\$1,574.7m (+73m) (4.8%)	
HUD-HOPWA	\$196m	\$204m (+8m)	\$250m (+54m)	\$204m ³ (+8m) ³	\$204m (+8m) ⁴
SAMHSA: Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Programs	\$1,360.1m	\$1,370m (+10m)	\$1,500m (+140m)	\$1,373m (+13m) (1%)	

- (1) Funding for Labor/HHS programs was provided through H.R. 4278 The Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Bill of 1997. Funding for HOPWA was provided through the FY 1997 VA/HUD Appropriations Bill signed by the President on 9/26/96.
- (2) Need figures are supported by the NORA Coalition and represent the resources needed to respond to growing case loads, under needs and unfunded research opportunities.
- (3) House VA/HUD subcommittee mark-up June 25. House Appropriations committee mark-up 7/8/97.
- (4) Senate VA/HUD mark-up 7/15/97.

AIDS Action Council

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW - Suite 700 - Washington, DC 20009 - 202/986-1300 - fax 986-1345

Copy for Sandy Thurman

7/21/97

The Health Department's Safe Date Club

The world's AIDS epidemic has recently been determined to be growing at the astonishing rate of 20 percent per year. The United States has become complacent, and instead of demonstrating leadership in containing the spread of this deadly virus, seems to be more concerned about containing spilled crude oil that might contaminate our shores and kill our birds. Did you know that every year, there are more Americans who become fatally infected with this virus, than who are killed in all the traffic accidents across the nation. The reason this continues year after year, I think is simple. The leaders of our country do not have the smartest people advising them. It appears that the other major governments of the world are also confused and ineffective in dealing with the world AIDS epidemic.

There is however, one small country, located in the western hemisphere, that enjoys phenomenal success in combating this terrible enemy. Soon after AIDS was discovered, the government of this country wisely adopted a Public Health policy that used an ancient method of curtailing transmittable diseases.

What they successfully implemented among their population, was a gentle form of quarantine of those people who were HIV infected. They established, away from populated areas, free sanitariums where infected people can all live together and be cared for.

This country is Cuba. By reducing the number of their new HIV infections to only a few hundred per year, they have proven to the world that they have found the Achilles heel of this insidious fatal virus.

There is a way that the United States can duplicate Communist Cuba's achievements without encroaching on the fundamental principles of our democracy. Instead of creating a boundary that separates the HIV infected from the healthy, they must create a boundary that separates the healthy from the HIV infected.

After years of fighting a losing battle against AIDS, it now becomes possible for this country to construct a new powerful weapon, for its citizens to use, that can put this deadly virus enemy in full retreat.

I propose that a nation-wide club be created, and called the " Health Department's Safe Date Club ". The way it works is that anyone can join the club, just by passing an HIV test, administered by their local health department. Then, anytime a new friend shows up in their

life, they can find out if this new friend is also a club member by together, placing a joint call to the toll-free club hotline, which connects them into a nation-wide Health Department club computer network. When a polite computer voice answers, each person enters their own secret identification number using the telephone keypad, and says their first and middle name. The computer voice then informs each of them that both individuals are indeed club members. They can now relax and enjoy their new friendship.

In order for the club to maintain up to date files on everyone's health, a system is implemented whereby all members must periodically mail in a blotter that contains a small sample of their blood. How often they do this, depends on how socially active they are. The club computer determines this and informs the member, only when they make a club hotline membership inquiry, that it's time to mail in a fresh sample. To insure that the source of this sample is indeed from the member, It is required that both partners of this telephone membership inquiry, mail in a sample together using a double size " buddy test mailer ", that also contains their two witnessing signatures. If both parties have already been tested within the last three months, then a buddy test mailer is not requested, but is still optional.

If, however, they fail to mail in a requested " buddy test mailer " within ten days, they are automatically placed on a status, called temporary club isolation. This is communicated to their friends, every time a club hotline membership inquiry is made.

At the blood testing lab, both blood samples are mixed together and processed as one sample, so as to reduce costs. If the sample test results are HIV positive, then both parties are temporarily suspended as members and all of their prior partners for the last 6 months are listed in the club computer network as being on temporary club isolation. This isolation or suspended status can only be removed by submitting to a blood test administered at the local health department after an appropriate waiting period.

Venereal Disease can play a critical role in assisting the AIDS virus in penetrating it's victim's skin. So this enemy must be attacked as well. The anatomy of a male is far better suited than the female, for detecting most VD. It would therefore be a good strategy to declare that men are to be entirely blamed for the spread of VD, and that women are merely the victims. Men could then accept full responsibility for curtailing these diseases.

There are now low cost urine test strips available, that detect urinary tract infections in men. Included with each "buddy test mailer" sold, perhaps in convenience stores, could be a test strip that a male would use as an instant check for Gonorrhea or chlamydia.

A women infected with one of these diseases can infect numerous men before any symptoms appear. If men would just come forward more often,

and acknowledge to each of their recent sex partners that they had become infected with VD, then I think they could significantly reduce the spread of their disease.

What is needed to facilitate them in doing this is to eliminate all of the unpleasant aspects of this communication chore, while giving them a personal incentive to want to do this. Fortunately, the Safe Date Club's computer network is well suited for this job, because it remembers all club membership inquiries for the last 6 months.

A member who is being treated for VD, can request from his physician, a special code number that he can enter when he calls the Safe Date Club hotline. This special code automatically triggers an anonymous STD Health Alert which is transmitted to the file voice-mail of each of his last six partners, and their most recent partners. If there aren't yet a dozen people, it will select the remaining number from a stranger pool created by the eleven people that were ahead of him in the Safe Date Club application line.

When a man triggers this anonymous STD Health Alert, the most recent partner, of his most recent partner, is declared to be sitting in the "hot seat" and is arbitrarily punished by being placed on temporary club isolation for two months, while he, as triggerman is rewarded with a two month immunity to any "hot seat" punitive measure that someone else might be attempting to inflict on him.

If the same woman were to infect several men, this structure creates a strong incentive to being the very first man to trigger the alert. When a woman triggers an alert it is her most recent male partner who is in the "hot seat". Women are never in the "hot seat". If a man chooses not to trigger an alert, he must "sweat it out" for two months, hoping she won't infect anyone else.

The purpose of the Health Department's Safe Date Club is to protect all members from getting AIDS. Determined individuals can, by becoming socially overactive, diminish the club's effectiveness. To discourage this from happening, any member's computer file automatically becomes restricted for 30 days if it is accessed by the club hotline more than a dozen times in any 60 day period.

limited access to this 30 day restricted file is still possible if they choose, first to submit to both an HIV blood test and a VD checkup administered by their local health department, and then rent for ten dollars, a small sonic encryption key that unlocks their file each time they access it during the 30 days. If after 30 days, they become restricted again, then they simply repeat the procedure. Since they are recently tested, their partners are permitted to mail in, when requested, a "buddy test mailer" without a buddy.

The " Health Department's Safe Date Club " invites everyone who is 16 years or older, to join the club. Teenagers that are not old enough to join, can periodically request a 3 day temporary spectator

authorization number that allows them, for one time, to jointly access, with a club member, the club hotline membership roster.

To maintain privacy, last names and addresses are not needed to join, but some form of ID, with this information taped over, must be briefly shown. An x-ray handprint is also taken. Each applicant is then issued a Health Department pass which contains a photo, the first and middle name of the applicant and the last 3 digits of a secret identification number. The complete ID number is encrypted and then recorded on a small magnetic strip.

An applicant automatically becomes a member as soon as their HIV test results indicate that they are healthy. Only at this point, is their application file transferred from a working floppy disc, into the Health Department's Safe Date Club computer network where their membership file is established which contains their ID number, their first and middle name, and a voiceprint of them saying their first and middle name.

Applicants who do not pass the HIV test, do not have their files copied from the working floppy disc, and therefore remain anonymous, as each working floppy disc is completely erased every month. They are free to continue to use their Health Department pass as a form of identification.

At the time of enrollment, each applicant is offered an optional take home postcard that he would only fill in, with some mailing address and the name "occupant", if he wanted notification by mail in the event that he, or any of his recent partners, has a change in their Safe Date Club status, or if he has been included in an STD Health Alert. This address would be stored off-line in a central address vault. A notification by mail, only tells him that he has some club voice-mail in his club file which he can access by himself using his secret identification number, then pushing the * button on his telephone.

In order to discourage a member from attempting to lend his membership file to a non-member, All applicant photos are taken with a digital camera which creates an electronic video file. All of these files are stored in a central photo archive. Any member, can call the Safe Date Club hotline anytime, and with the push of the # button, have mailed to them, a small laser printer generated photo on plain paper, of the last person with whom they jointly conducted a membership inquiry.

There is also a feature of the club computer called "echo check" that any member can request during a club membership inquiry, that uses the file voiceprint of his friend to confirm his identity. It does this by replaying, in an endless loop, a friend's spoken voice, quickly followed by his file voiceprint.

For security reasons, all restricted members have an "echo check" of their voice silently recorded every time their membership file is accessed. These recordings are for surveillance and are stored for later evaluation.

In order for the Health Department's Safe Date Club to really catch on, there must be substantial enrollment in a short period of time. This may be accomplished with a promotional campaign that consists of the following:

1/ TV and radio advertising whose theme could be "Remember to just say no thanks" unless he's a member of the Health Department's Safe Date Club.

2/ The Virus Stoppers million dollar weekly jackpot lottery that is televised nation-wide and can also be heard on national radio. It is free, but only members of the Safe Date Club who have been tested in the last 6 months are enrolled in the lottery. This is done automatically. Winners who turn out to be married, or who are over 62 years of age, are not eligible, and must forfeit their prize.

3/ Lucky Stallion red/black roulette gaming machines that are installed on the walls of Men's restrooms in nightclubs, Gay bars and truckstops. Only a person with a health department pass can play. No money is involved. A person plays by swiping his pass through a card reader. When he selects red or black, the machine begins to click like a roulette wheel. Then the clicking slows down. When it stops, either a winning chime is sounded or a losing buzzer. If it's a winning chime, then a free condom is dispensed. An internal memory limits each player to only one play every 40 hours. There is a 60 second LED light countdown before the machine is ready to play again. On the side of the machine is a statement that reads
" Warning - Herpes makes you itch forever"

4/ Mobile recruitment vans that issue on the spot, applicant ID cards and administer applicant HIV tests using the cotton mouth swab technique instead of a blood test. These vans would visit high schools and colleges during the day and at night they would park in the parking lots of various nightclubs and Gay bars. On weekends they could circulate around the major malls. Sometimes they would visit public housing projects. Late at night they could visit

a city's red light district or certain highway
truck stops where the ladies of the night tend to
congregate.

The approximate mathematical model of the Safe Date Club, that predicts it's ability to purge itself of any internal HIV flare-up, reveals that it would be more difficult for the virus to sustain itself within the club, than for a candle to stay lit in a rainstorm.

Because there is no cure for AIDS, the number of Americans who are fatally infected with this virus is mounting, and now exceeds the total number of Americans killed in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

It is time for Congress to consider stronger action. This program will cost the Government about 50,000 dollars for each person saved from contracting AIDS. While this is a substantial sum, I predict that, for every million dollars the Government spends on this program, they will save between two and three million dollars down the road, in reduced healthcare costs for people suffering from AIDS.

For the Health Department, the Safe Date Club is nothing more than an improved communication apparatus, that now allows the healthy public to share their favorable test results with each other, so that they can avoid close personal contact with infected people, who could sentence them to an early death. At the same time, this apparatus maintains total anonymity for all those unfortunate people who are fatally infected.

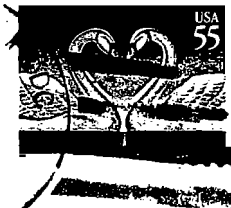
For those many single, socially cautious Americans who may be overly fearful that their next kiss may be delivered by someone who turns out to be their executioner, the safe sanctuary that the Safe Date Club provides, will literally change their lives.

But the tens of thousands of young Americans, whose lives will be saved annually, may never know that they were on a tragic collision course with the Grim Reaper, before their compassionate Government stepped in, and forever altered their destiny.

Yours truly,

Jeremiah Murphy

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