

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19406

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Correspondence - SLT - Incoming - 12/97 [2]

Stack:

S

Row:

66

Section:

6

Shelf:

7

Position:

1

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date
10415	Steve - Eddie - Wendy	Cady - Singleton - Crayto	12/24/97
Addressed To			
Thurman, Sandra			
Sender's Organization			
DHSS Alaska			
Sender's Street1			
Sender's Street2			
Sender's City	Sender's State	Sender's Zip	
Subject			
reduction in funding			
☒ Response Needed?	Response Type	Response Date	Responder ID
Responder Name	Action Promised	Action Complet	Action Date
Notes			

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SECTION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY**

3601 "C" STREET, SUITE 540
P.O. BOX 240249
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99524-0249

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
AIDS/STD
TUBERCULOSIS
IMMUNIZATION
CHRONIC DISEASES
DIABETES
INJURY CONTROL

(907) 269-8000
FAX 562-7802

December 18, 1997

Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
Executive Office of the President
808 17th Street NW, Suite 820
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Since 1994, with guidelines and funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local health departments have established community planning processes to assist in HIV prevention planning. The State of Alaska HIV/AIDS Program's HIV prevention strategies and activities were developed within this community planning process, and the State's annual application for HIV prevention funds from CDC reflected priorities identified through this process. A significant proportion of the State's 1997 HIV Prevention funds are committed to community-based organizations for HIV health education/risk reduction interventions, as prioritized by the community planning process. A reduction in our 1998 funds will therefore directly and adversely affect agencies on the front-line of HIV prevention.

CDC has notified state and local health departments that there will be a 2.25 percent reduction in FY 98 HIV prevention cooperative agreement awards, due to an administrative tap on all CDC programs. In addition, the \$17.5 million increase in FY 98 HIV prevention funding for health departments is likely to be made available only through a competitive process. Given that new HIV prevention funds were appropriated for 1998, we ask that these funds be allocated to restore funds removed from our State's Cooperative Agreement. The community planning process has already determined the priorities for their use, and ignoring them de-values the overall planning process and generates much additional work for the planning group and for State staff in revising objectives and workplans to accommodate a decreased budget. If, after this restoration, additional funds are offered competitively, we will request a community planning consideration to direct them to the priorities deemed by our local planning group to be most appropriate to our needs.

We request your assistance in working with CDC to resolve these administrative issues, to restore state and local HIV prevention cooperative agreements to the final FY 97 level,

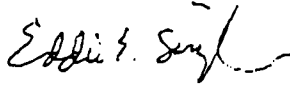
and to expedite the award of new HIV prevention dollars intended for HIV prevention programs administered by state and local health departments.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Steve Cady
Community Co-Chair



Eddie Singleton
Community Co-Chair



Wendy Craytor
Health Department Co-Chair

Alaska HIV Prevention Planning Group

cc: John Middaugh, MD, State Epidemiology
Julie Scofield, Executive Director, NASTAD

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID

10414

Writer First Name

Robert - Kathleen

Writer Last Name

Russell - Aponte

Received Date

12/24/97

Addressed To

Thurman, Sandra

Sender's Organization

Area 7 HIV Aids

Sender's Street1

Sender's Street2

Sender's City

Sender's State

Sender's Zip

Subject

Reduction in funding

☒ Response Needed?

Response Type

Response Date

Responder ID

Responder Name

Action Promised

Action Complet

Action Date

Notes

Sandra Thurman
Dir. Office Ntl AIDS Policy Ex Office President
808 17th St NW Suite 820
Washington DC 20006

Dear Sandra Thurman:

We are writing on behalf of the Area 7 HIV/AIDS Community Planning Partnership to express our concern and disapproval regarding the proposed 2.25 percent reductions in FY 98 cooperative agreement HIV Prevention awards funding to state and local health departments. We request that these funds be restored and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) follow congressional intent and increase funding to state and local health departments to meet the current existing needs as identified through HIV Prevention Community Planning.

Continuation of FY 97 levels must be assured before any competitive grant process should be considered. We are greatly concerned about the CDC's administrative costs and accountability. It does not seem prudent to be increasing administrative allocations and at the same time requesting an additional competitive grant process which would further encumber administrative time, energy and funding.

We request your assistance in working with the CDC to resolve their administrative problems and to restore state and local HIV prevention cooperative agreements to their FY 97 funding levels and to expedite the award of new HIV prevention funds administered through state and local health departments.

We have improved our needs assessment and comprehensive prevention/care plan over the past four years. We have broken barriers between government and affected communities and have established strong collaborations between AIDS service organizations, community based organizations, and local and state health departments.

We still have no cure or adequate vaccine in sight for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. While we have increased access to treatments and programs, many affected communities are still distrustful of government incursions. Please do not compound this problem through increased administrative drains, both administratively and fiscally, that the CDC has requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Russell
Chair-Area 7 HIV/AIDS Community Planning Partnership
Representative-Florida Community Planning Group



Kathleen Aponte
CoChair-Area 7
Representative-FCPG

1935 Woodcrest Drive
Winter Park, FL 32792



Sandra Thurman
Dir. Office Ntl AIDS Policy Ex Office P
808 17th St NW Suite 820
Washington, DC 20006

20006+3310



ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date	
10411	H. H.	Fudenberg	12/24/97	
Addressed To				
Thurman, Sandra				
Sender's Organization				
NeuroImmuno Therapeutics				
Sender's Street1				
Sender's Street2				
Sender's City	Sender's State	Sender's Zip		
Subject				
Costs and medication on HIV				
☐ Response Needed?	Response Type	Response Date	Responder ID	
Responder Name	Action Promised	Action Complet	Action Date	
Notes				
Original to Mr. Robert Pear of NYTimes. Copied to Sandra				

NeuroImmuno Therapeutics Research Foundation

1092 Boiling Springs Road

Spartanburg, SC 29303

Phone (864) 591-0944 FAX (864) 591-0622

email: neuroimmuno@juno.com

December 19, 1997

Robert Pear
Washington Office
New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
NY, NY 10036

With regard to your column on Page A6 New York Times, November 26, 1997, AIDS investigator have long know that AIDS growth rate in the poverty stricken areas of the world, especially in sub-Saharan African countries and Thailand, etc., was greatly underestimated because many of these nations did not want to admit to a serious AIDS problem. Currently the WHO spends \$4 daily for food, shelter, and clothing of AIDS patients. Such countries can not afford \$15,000 per patient yearly for therapy. Yet clinical trials of agents affordable in the industrialized countries are being carried out in poor countries mentioned above, which will be of no benefit to the populations studied. The ethics of such trials have been seriously questioned¹.

Furthermore, Karpas et al.² and others have pointed out the serious limitation of current HIV therapy namely Zidovudine, a Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor (RTI) plus two anti-proteases, are ineffective in majority of the patients, both because of the emergence of viral mutants resistant to these agents and toxicity. Azidothymidine (AZT), the usual RTI, universally causes anemia and AZT caused significantly higher mortality due to the toxicity of the immune system. It is thought that HIV integrates as DNA within the cells genome, hence the reduction of the peripheral blood viral load to zero was thought to indicate a possible cure. However, far greater number of virions are present within lymph nodes, tonsils, etc. attached to the tips of the dendrites to the dendritic cells which in normal constitutes 1 in 500,00 White Blood Cells (leukocytes)^{3,4}. In contrast, there are billions of such cells in the germinal centers in the lymphoid tissues of the body (eg. Lymph nodes, Tonsils, Gastrointestinal Associated Lymphoid Tissue) so that HIV virions can be found in substantial amounts attached to the dendrites, when HIV virions in peripheral blood are undetectable.

H. H. FUDENBERG, M.D., Director of Research

Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science

International Man of the Year for Biomedical Sciences, 1991

(International Biographical Centre, University of Cambridge, England)

Listings include Who's Who in: America, World, Medicine and Healthcare, Cancer Research, and Science & Technology

20th Century Achievement Award: 500 Leaders of Influence

Member Advisory Board (for Science) International Biographical Center

“Retroviruses, such as HIV-1 and human T-cell leukemia virus 1 (HTLV-1), have an additional strategy to combat host defences. After reverse transcription of the RNA genome, the DNA provirus is integrated into the host cell genome. where it can remain latent - i.e. transcriptionally silent ... (possibly providing) a reverse pool of genomes for reactivation after an immune response has abated.”⁵ However, only some of the DNA provirus is integrated into the genome¹. Some are mutant and as these mutants proliferate peripheral blood virion level begins to rise (“treatment failed in 199 days”⁶).

Furthermore, current agents can produce significant side effects due to adverse drug interaction in patients taking certain cardiac medicine, anticoagulants, hypnotic medication, and anti-depressants (and what percent of patients with clinical AIDS are not depressed?)

Further, in addition to the limitation of currently accepted therapy (HAART⁷) - cost and toxicity, any effective synthetic drugs, including chemokine analogs, can be expected to recapitulate our experience with anti-bacterial medication such as penicillin with emergence of resistant mutants of this rapidly mutating virus.

Future use will be limited by the “emergence of resistant mutants and toxicity.”² Chemokine receptors are essential co-factors of HIV-1 entry into the cell;⁸ they are encoded by cellular genes and therefore cannot easily mutate; and thus belong to a class of proteins highly susceptible to inhibition by small-molecule antagonist⁹. Although antagonists can be developed against the major co-receptors (CCR5), the virus might find a way around the antagonist by choosing another co-receptor (of the 13 receptors so far found of the CXC chemokines and the CC chemokine.) Thus far, four appear to be used as co-receptors and the possible number of chemokine receptors encoding sequences genome and at least two new code receptors¹⁰ make it likely that a bewildering number “of possible portals of entry of HIV-1 exist. Adaptations of virus to use some of these other receptor family members would result in the evolution of new pathogenic variant.”¹¹

In contrast to synthetic agents (including chemokine analogs) we have found that a natural substance devoid of toxicity and of adverse reaction due to drug interaction, namely HIV specific Transfer Factor lowers viral load in patients with serious burdens (80,000/mm³-250,00/mm³) to zero in three or four months with disappearance of symptoms. Furthermore, 9 of 9 other severely ill AIDS patients with absent cell mediated immunity as shown by negative results in Delayed Hypersensitivity Skin test to 6 antigens all converted to skin test positively when retested at 60 days. The usual dosage is 1 capsule daily taken orally.

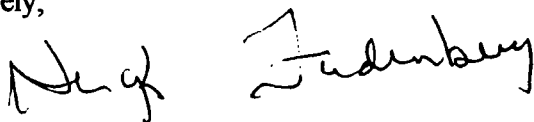
Antigen Specific Transfer Factor (As-TF) also avoids the cost problem since daily dose for a patient with a viral load in the range mentioned above is less than \$1.50 a day if made in a research laboratory (only 50,000 capsules per month) and would be far less if we could obtain funds for rental of non-used space in a pharmaceutical company where production would be 5 million capsule per month. The hot spots for mutation are clustered on several

portions of the HIV molecule¹² which appears to be far distant from the epitope with which HIV-TF reacts.¹³

Current double blind placebo control crossover studies are now in progress in promiscuous homosexual males (none of whom use IV drugs whose viral loads range from 200,000/mm³ - 800,000/mm³); the preliminary data correspond to the results mentioned above. Nonetheless, large pharmaceutical firms are disinterested in Antigen-specific Transfer Factor. (We also have transfer factor for the Human Herpes Virus -VI and cyto megalovirus which some believe are necessary cofactors for clinical AIDS. These usually do not cause clinical problems until the last few months of the life of the AIDS patient. And also for Human Herpes Virus-III (cause of shingles) and for candida, both of which cause AIDS patients great discomfort, but which can be eradicated within 5 days of therapy, six weeks of continued therapy and then cessation has caused no recurrence of herpes or candida of a 1 year - 1.5 year follow up.

Major pharmaceutical companies are disinterested in producing As-TF because they state that the method of action is unknown. It should be remembered that penicillin was widely used for 20 years before its mechanism of action, namely replication of synthesis of bacterial cell walls was elucidated. Furthermore, few physicians know of Transfer Factor, although at least 3,000 articles on TF have appeared in peer-reviewed journals including our groups papers in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. US, Journal Clinical Investigation, Lancet, Science, New Eng. J. Med., J. Experimental Med, etc. One of us has been a consultant at one time or another to most of the major pharmaceutical companies throughout the world; there is a list attached for your information. It is my impression that the reason given for the disinterest is not lack of knowledge of the mechanism of action but rather the fact that the AIDS patients vociferously protest profits greater than 200% of manufacturing costs. hence large scale production (our estimate of cost is \$0.50 per capsule) would give a yearly profit of 365 dollars per patient versus the current \$12,000-\$14,000.

Sincerely,



H.H. Fudenberg, M.D. *

Dakshesh K. Patel †

* Director of Research † Research Associate

¹ Group brands AIDS trials unethical. *Science* 1997, 276 (5312):519.

² Karpas A, Ash S and Bainbridge D. Are anti-HIV drugs an effective treatment? *Nature Med.*, 1052.

³ Fudenberg, Proc. First Internat. Symp. Aids Naples Italy, P.

⁴ Janossy, G. Personal Communication 1997.

⁵ Bangham CRM and Phillips RE. What is required of an HIV vaccine? *Lancet* 1997, 350:1617-1621.

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- ⁶ Cohen, John : The Daunting Challenge of Keeping HIV Suppressed. *Science* 1997, 277(5313):32-33,
- ⁷ D.E. Moiser et al. *Nature* 375, 193, 1995.
- ⁸ Moore JP, Trkola A, Dragic T : Co-receptors for HIV-1 entry. *Curr Opin Immunol* 9:551-562 (1997).
- ⁹ Landau, N: HIV co-receptor identification: good or bad news for drug discovery? *Curr Opin Immunol* 1997, 9:628-630.
- ¹⁰ Deng, HK, Unumatz D, Kewal Ramani VN, Littman DR : Expression cloning of new receptors used by simian and human immunodeficiency viruses. *Nature* 388:296-300 (1997).
- ¹¹ Ibid and Smith M, Carrington M, Winkler C, et al. CCR2 chemokine receptor and AIDS progression. *Nature Med.* 3:1052-1054 (1997).
- ¹² C. Wills, Plenary Lecture, Keystone Symposium on AIDS. Hilton Head ,SC, March 1996.
- ¹³ Several patients who failed or discontinued AZT therapy because of adverse side -effects received HIV specific TF with disappearance of virion and clinical symptoms. However, they ceased TF therapy when anti-proteases therapy became available. After improvement on anti-proteases for 6-8 months virion levels began to rise and symptoms reoccurred. Readministration of HIV- TF resulted in disappearance of A) HIV Virions from peripheral blood and B) clinical symptoms .

CC : 1. Gerath Jones, UN Program on HIV AIDS, UN Building NY.
 2. Sandra L. Thurman, Director, White House, National AIDS Policy.
 3. Jacob Natvig, President, International Union of Immunologic Society

New Estimate Doubles Rate of H.I.V. Spread

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 — Medical experts working for the United Nations say they grossly underestimated the spread of the AIDS virus worldwide, and they now believe that new infections are occurring almost twice as fast as they thought a year ago. Instead of 8,200 new infections a day, they now believe there are 16,000.

The new data, which began circulating today among American officials here and will be issued on Wednesday in Paris, suggest that 30.6 million people around the world are now living with H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS. The last estimate, for 1996, was that 22.6 million people had the virus.

Some of the increase results from actual spread of the virus, and some from new methods of collecting data and making estimates, which United Nations officials believe give a more accurate picture. The United Nations did not say how much of the increase was attributable to each factor.

The United Nations estimates that 23 million people around the world will die of AIDS this year, an increase of more than 50 percent from an estimate that 1.5 million people died of the disease in 1996.

United Nations experts said the new data suggested that the AIDS epidemic could have ruinous economic effects in some regions, of the world, because it strikes many people of working age. Businesses should join governments in more aggressive efforts to fight AIDS, they said.

Two-thirds of the people infected with H.I.V. live in sub-Saharan Africa, and the United Nations experts said the epidemic in that region had been badly underestimated even though it was known to be severe.

Asked about the new estimates, Sandra L. Thurman, director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, said: "These numbers are so overwhelming that they numb the mind. We knew the numbers would increase. But I was surprised to learn how far off the mark we were in our estimates of how the epidemic is progressing globally."

Gareth Jones, a spokesman for the United Nations Program on H.I.V./AIDS, said: "New infections are occurring at an alarming rate. In addition, it does appear that previous calculations grossly underestimated the rate of transmission of H.I.V., particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where the bulk of infections are concentrated."

In a telephone interview today from Geneva, Mr. Jones said: "The older estimates were based on data that came from a small number of countries. It was assumed that one could extrapolate similar rates of transmission for all countries in a particular region, assuming that regional differences could be pretty much ignored. It turns out that this assumption was wrong."

For the new estimates, Mr. Jones said, "we replaced regional models with separate models constructed for each country."

The United Nations estimates that

UPDATE

A New, Grimmer Portrait of AIDS

The United Nations has revised its estimates of the worldwide spread of H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS.

	PREVIOUS (1996)	REVISED (1997)
PEOPLE WITH H.I.V. OR AIDS	22.6 million*	30.6 million
Sub-Saharan Africa		20.8 million
South and Southeast Asia		6 million
Latin America		1.3 million
North America		860,000
Western Europe		530,000
East Asia and Pacific		440,000
Caribbean		310,000
North Africa, Middle East		210,000
Eastern Europe, Central Asia		150,000
Australia, New Zealand		12,000
NEW INFECTIONS PER YEAR		
Total	3 million	5.8 million
Children	350,000	580,000
DEATHS PER YEAR		
Total	1.5 million	2.3 million
Children	350,000	440,000

*No continent-by-continent breakdown available for 1996

Source: United Nations

The New York Times

30.6 million people worldwide are now believed to have the AIDS virus.

with H.I.V. each day, up from last year's estimate of 1,000 children a day. Moreover, it says, 1,200 children die of AIDS each day, up from the prior estimate of 1,000.

Many developing countries have crude systems of tracking disease, keep inadequate statistics and have denied the seriousness of the AIDS epidemic, public health experts said.

In many of these countries, Mr. Thurman said, "cultural norms prevent people from looking realistically at the AIDS epidemic and taking preventive measures, which would require more open discussion of sexuality, homosexuality and drug use."

Mr. Jones said the new data accentuated the contrast between countries at different stages of economic development. "More than 90 percent of new infections occur in developing countries," he said. "The industrialized world is experiencing decreases in new infections and AIDS cases generally. Prevention has worked among certain target groups like homosexuals, and new drugs are coming on stream. But the situation for the rest of the world is very different."

New tables prepared by the World Health Organization show that over 5.8 million people newly infected with the AIDS virus this year are in sub-Saharan Africa, 1 million

and 30,000 are in Western Europe.

The estimated number of new infections in Caribbean countries (47,000 this year) slightly exceeds the number in North America (44,000).

About 10 percent of all the new infections are in children under 15, and more than half of the remainder are in people 15 to 24, the health organization said.

Worldwide, the United Nations estimates that 11.7 million people of all ages have died from AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic in the late 1970's and early 80's. This year's deaths account for one-fifth of all deaths ascribed to AIDS since the start of the epidemic.

The United Nations estimated that 9.7 million people in sub-Saharan Africa had died of AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, with a total of 740,000 deaths in South Asia and Southeast Asia, 420,000 in North America, 110,000 in Caribbean countries, 470,000 in Latin America and 190,000 in Western Europe.

Dr. Peter Piot of Belgium, executive director of the United Nations Program on H.I.V./AIDS, said, "AIDS is increasingly a threat to the global market economy." The disease, he said, has already slowed Kenya's economic growth, and it is likely to affect other countries' output too.

The United Nations said China, India and Thailand "for instance, are likely to replicate the experience in sub-Saharan Africa in a few years' time." New outbreaks of AIDS infection have erupted in East Africa, the former Soviet Union, and in Vietnam, Cambodia, China

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date	
10404	Sue	SMITH	12/23/97	
Addressed To				
Sender's Organization				
Director, Agency Liaison				
Sender's Street1				
Sender's Street2				
Sender's City	Sender's State	Sender's Zip		
Subject				
Opinions				
☒ Response Needed?		Response Type	Response Date	Responder ID
Responder Name	Action Promised	Action Complet	Action Date	
Notes				
attachment dealing with AIDS research				

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12.19.97

DATE

MEMORANDUM

FOR:

ONAPC

FROM:

SUE J. SMITH *SJS*
DIRECTOR, AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF CASEWORK

I am forwarding the attached letter to your office for appropriate action. Please send us a copy of your written response or your telephone report along with the writer's original correspondence and envelope to the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

If you have any questions, call my office at 202/456-7486.

Thank you for your help.

~~Refused~~
ONAPC
CB

From nobody@www1.whitehouse.gov Mon Dec 8 00:25:37 1997
Date: Mon, 08 Dec 1997 00:17:19 -0500
From: Ray Clemons <RayClemons@juno.com>
Subject: Inbound-White_House_WWW_MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www1.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: Ray Clemons <RayClemons@juno.com>
Message-id: <199712080517.AAA19121@www1.whitehouse.gov>
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: proxy1.sch.prodigy.net[207.115.1.33]
BROWSER: Mozilla/2.0 (compatible; MSIE 3.02; Update a; Windows 95)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Ray Clemons
EMAIL-ADDRESS: RayClemons@juno.com
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 1591 S. Lane Ave #8B
CITY: Jacksonville
STATE-PROVINCE: FL
ZIP-CODE: 32210
COUNTRY: USA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Ask a specific question regarding Administration policy
TOPIC: Social Issues
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: I have questions about government policy concerning certain issues.

[Message]

Why does our government not stop the spread of AIDS? I realize that AIDS has spread to the point that it is in almost every corner of society, but its spread could be limited greatly by enforcing rules of common sense morality. AIDS is spread mainly by same-sex sexual encounters. Yet this type of behavior is condoned and promoted by the US government and the Clinton administration in particular. Why isn't AIDS treated like other deadly diseases? When you have an outbreak of, say, TB, everything possible is done to control the spread and source of the disease. This is not the case with AIDS. It seems that the opposite is true. Those who spread the disease are given special rights and those fear AIDS are told that nothing can be done.

Just
again
UNAPC
Vaccine

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Tue Dec 2 13:00:34 1997
Date: Tue, 02 Dec 1997 12:55:43 -0500
From: Dexter Fabi <dfabi@shrike.depaul.edu>
Subject: Inbound-White_House_WWW_MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: Dexter Fabi <dfabi@shrike.depaul.edu>
Message-id: <199712021755.MAA22591@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: lab180.sac235x.depaul.edu[140.192.57.180]
BROWSER: Mozilla/4.04 [en] (Win95; I)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Dexter Fabi
EMAIL-ADDRESS: dfabi@shrike.depaul.edu
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 2255 Tennyson Lane
CITY: Highland Park
STATE-PROVINCE: IL
ZIP-CODE: 60035
COUNTRY: U. S. A.

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Other
TOPIC: Social Issues
AFFILIATION: Student - College or University
SUBJECT: " E-March "

[Message]

Dear Mr. President--
Here is yet another e-mail in the "E-March" on Washington, in honor of World AIDS Day.

I know that one of the top goals in your administration's agenda is to find a vaccine, and I know that your record with AIDS research has been the best out of all the U. S. presidents. To this, I am incredibly grateful.

However, I feel that there should be a stepping up of research, and funding for scientists who are determined to

find a cure. As you know, already 30 million people worldwide have HIV, and it is increasing. The finding of a vaccine, hopefully found by the American people if possible, will be one of the most sublime, divine things in human history.

I have voted for you twice, and am enormously satisfied with your administration. I am a Democrat to the core as well. Do not listen to all the threats, and all the moves to remove you from your position. I know how many scandals are facing you--it seems that they are all coming at once. But keep your eyes and your view on the world focused on your agenda, and only great accomplishments can result.

From
Dexter

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date	
10393	Elizabeth	Birch	12/19/97	
Addressed To				
Sender's Organization				
Human Rights Campaign				
Sender's Street1				
Sender's Street2				
Sender's City	Sender's State	Sender's Zip		
Subject				
Aband'g medicade				
☒ Response Needed?	Response Type	Response Date	Responder ID	
Responder Name	Action Promised	Action Complet	Action Date	
Notes				
Addressed to Mr. Gore, cc: S. Thurman				



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

WYTO KUTW
GCS
A. JONES
DANMAN

Via Facsimile

December 5, 1997

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
Vice President of the United States
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Vice President Gore:

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), I am writing to express my extreme concern regarding today's *Washington Post* story on the abandonment of Medicaid modernization for people living with HIV and AIDS by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Despite the work that many AIDS community leaders and staff at the Health Care Financing Administration have put into this issue, HHS has apparently decided that further progress is not possible. I strongly disagree and urge you, consistent with your long standing leadership in fighting this epidemic, to direct HHS to redouble its efforts to make the Medicaid program more accessible to people with HIV and AIDS.

According to the *Post* story, one version of changes to the Medicaid system would benefit between 44,000 and 114,000 Americans living with HIV. For HHS to acknowledge such significant benefits and then to dismiss those benefits as too costly is, in my view, morally wrong. I know that you are committed to ensuring high quality health care for all Americans and that you are committed to enacting policy which moves this country closer to that goal. Changes in Medicaid for people with HIV is one such policy. Not only would such changes ensure basic health care for more Americans, it would provide treatments to save the lives of thousands of people.

Your message in April directing HHS to report on including more people with HIV in the Medicaid program and the Department's own guidelines on the treatment of HIV disease, released in June, clearly indicate that early treatment is essential. It is a life threatening contradiction for HHS not to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure the availability of treatments recommended by its own public health experts.

I know that you understand the benefits of those recommended treatments. The quality and length of life for thousands of people with HIV disease have been vastly improved because they are fortunate enough to have access to state-of-the-art medical care from the moment they know their HIV status. As a result, we are seeing significant declines in the number of AIDS deaths for the first time since the epidemic began. We have an obligation to extend that hope to as many people with HIV as possible.

WORKING FOR LESBIAN AND GAY EQUAL RIGHTS.

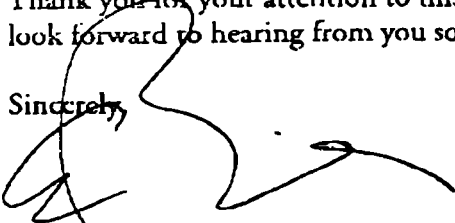
1101 14th Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20005
phone (202) 628 4160 fax (202) 347 5323 e-mail hrc@hrcamer.org

HRC Letter
December 5, 1997
Page 2

I would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this issue further. Specifically, I would like to discuss ways in which the Administration can work with Congress, Medicaid officials, and state and local decision makers to build consensus on the need to ensure HIV treatment services to all those who need them. I strongly believe that the Health Care Financing Administration, in collaboration with national organizations and other experts, can develop changes to the Medicaid program which would, at a reasonable cost, provide adequate incentives for states to participate and adequate services to meet the needs of low-income people with HIV disease.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to hearing from you soon regarding a meeting.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Birch
Executive Director



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN**

1101 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
website <http://www.hrc.org>
phone 202 628 4160
fax 202 347 5323

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, Dec. 5, 1997

Contact: David M. Smith
Phone: (202) 216-1547
Pager: (800) 386-5996

HRC CALLS ON SHALALA TO STAND BY COMMITMENTS TO MAKE LIFE-SAVING THERAPIES AVAILABLE TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WITH HIV

Dubs Continued Exclusion of People With HIV a 'Moral Outrage'

WASHINGTON – Responding to reports that the Clinton administration has abandoned attempts to expand Medicaid coverage to low-income people who are HIV-infected, the Human Rights Campaign labeled the move a “moral outrage,” and called upon Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to stand by the commitments of President Clinton and Vice President Gore to make new life-saving drugs available to people who cannot afford them.

An AIDS-specific expansion of the Medicaid program would allow states to enroll people who are HIV positive, who would otherwise be excluded from the program until they developed full-blown AIDS. Such an expansion will save resources because the high costs of hospitalization and treating opportunistic infections will be curtailed. Vice President Gore announced his support for such a Medicaid expansion in April and called on the Health Care Financing Administration to issue a report within 30 days on such an initiative.

According to The Washington Post and the Associated Press, the Health Care Financing Administration, which oversees Medicaid, has determined that expanding Medicaid to cover low-income people who are HIV-infected but who are not yet diagnosed with AIDS is too expensive.

“[S]everal proposals were tested and all were too expensive, Victor Zonana, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said Thursday,” according to the Associated Press.

“For administration officials to acknowledge that new treatments administered early in the course of HIV disease save lives, and then fail to develop programs to make those treatments available is a moral outrage,” said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign.

The administration's own guidelines for the treatment of HIV disease, released in June, clearly indicate that early treatment is essential. For the administration not to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure that these treatments are available to all those who need them is a life-threatening contradiction.

Stachelberg pledged that the Human Rights Campaign, working with its coalition partners, will continue to press the Clinton administration to rapidly develop a solution to this problem. “People's lives are at stake,” Stachelberg said. “‘Too expensive’ is an unacceptable excuse for not making these treatments available to people who cannot otherwise afford them.”

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

GMHC News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 1997

Contact: Stephen Soba, (212) 367-1214

Christopher Norbury, (212) 367-1221

GMHC DEPLORES MEDICAID MOVE

Calls for Presidential and Congressional Leadership

The following statement was released today by Susan Dooha, Director of Health Care Access at Gay Men's Health Crisis:

The announcement today by the Clinton Administration that Medicaid will not be expanded to cover HIV-infected people who do not yet have AIDS comes as an unexpected blow to all people with HIV, their families, their loved ones, and their advocates.

Eligibility for Medicaid, the government's health care program for the poor and disabled, is often tied to an individual's AIDS diagnosis. This is inconsistent with the new guidelines on HIV treatment set forth by the HHS itself, guidelines which urge treatment of HIV-infected people with combination therapies before they develop full-blown AIDS.

It is cruel to force poor, sick people to become severely disabled with AIDS before they can obtain effective treatments. And it is not cost effective. Ultimately, it will cost far more to pay for hospitalizations for sick AIDS patients than it would have cost to take care of them now.

Vice President Gore had given us to understand that he was to be an advocate on this issue. The announcement, therefore, of the end of this effort strikes us as premature. We do not believe the Vice President's commitment to expand Medicaid to cover people with HIV could possibly be at an end or be derailed by the bureaucratic squabbles of Washington.

* * *

GMHC News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 1997

Contact: Stephen Soba, (212) 367-1214

Christopher Norbury, (212) 367-1221

GMHC DEPLORES MEDICAID MOVE

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* * *

Dec. 19, 1987

Dear Director Sandy Thurman,
"A Drink a Day Keeps Trim Reapers Away."
That's the kind of Christmas headline people
like to read, and it's worth millions of dollars
to the hospitality industry. Just take that first
drink and the alcohol will take care of the rest.
If people develop alcohol problems, we can always
blame it on defective genes.

Some day our society will confront the
hospitality industry, but I'm afraid there
will be millions of AIDS orphans before our
society pulls its head out of the sand.

Thank you for your concern
and efforts to reduce the AIDS
problem. Women are extremely
vulnerable when they are under the
influence of alcohol. I am trying
to be helpful, but in a sense almost
every home is under the influence
of alcohol via TV. I wish you
success and a Merry Christmas with lots
of family and friends,

Robert W. Cooper



PUBLIC FORUM

Lack of reporting hinders AIDS fight

We tend to only track the end results of the HIV epidemic. Lack of reporting hinders efforts to prevent the spread of infection and to provide timely counseling and treatment.

U.N. AIDS researchers estimate that while over 30 million people worldwide are living with HIV or AIDS, only one in 10 know they're infected. U.N. AIDS reports that 2.3 million people will die of AIDS in 1997, a 50 percent increase over 1996. About half of the deaths are heterosexual young women, and 460,000 are children. In Zimbabwe, between 40 percent and 50 percent of the women going for prenatal care are infected with HIV. U.N. AIDS estimates that by the year 2010 about 41,600,000 children will have lost one parent or both to AIDS.

In the United States, all states are required to report the names of AIDS patients. However, the Centers for Disease Control estimates that 75 percent of 1.5 million people with HIV infection live in states (this includes California) that require no HIV reporting.

We do know that several local cities rank among the nation's highest in rates of teenage pregnancy, abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and violence.

Within our entire nation about one in nine female teen-agers become pregnant each year, and the average age of their male partners is 27. One in five women is

now infected with genital herpes. Often too late, women learn there is no fool like an old fool, especially after a few drinks. Ten years from now we may learn how many contracted AIDS.

Within the Inland Valley, young women and minorities are the newest and fastest-growing segment of HIV patients. Many are too poor to afford the \$15,000 to \$20,000 required for AIDS cocktails and complex monitoring — every year, perhaps for the rest of their lives.

The new face of AIDS is heterosexual, poor, young women and all too often, their tiny babies.

A family totally committed to one another with love, and a home that is free from the influence of alcohol and other drugs, is the finest Christmas gift a child can receive.

ROBERT W. COOPER
Upland

Gift to college just generous, not racist

Regarding the contention that Oprah Winfrey's donating \$1 million to African-American students at Morehouse College is racist: I love Oprah. Her show has helped people's lives. It's educational, funny, entertaining and it affects everyone's lives by making people of all races aware.

I don't know if people are aware of the fact, but Oprah currently has an Angel

INLAND VALLEY

B4 Daily Bulletin 12-18-97

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Donald A. Russell General Manager

Stephen Trosley Editor

Peggy del Toro Advertising Director

Richard L. Nagey MIS Director

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Susan H. Pate Creative Services Director

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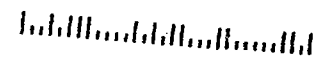
DONALD W. REYNOLDS, FOUNDER



Mr. Robert W. Cooper
1350 N. 3rd Ave.
Upland, Ca 91786-3228



Sandy Thurman
Director of AIDS Policy
C/O The White House
Washington, D.C.
20500



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR SANDRA THURMAN

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President from Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached letter and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress. Please forward a copy of the response to Chris Walker, Office of Legislative Affairs.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Walker at 456-7500.

Enclosure

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
3RD DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2103

512 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2103
(202) 225-6101

DISTRICT OFFICES:
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(508) 831-7356

1 PARK STREET
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703
(508) 431-8025

218 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 204
FALL RIVER, MA 02721
(508) 677-0140

<http://www.house.gov/mcgovern/>

November 20, 1997

William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Aids office

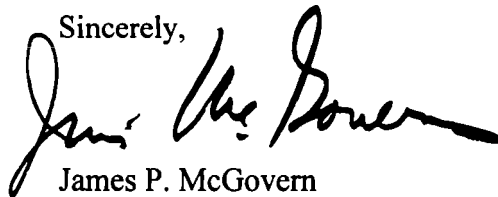
Dear Mr. President:

As you know, a group of high school students from the Third Congressional District in Massachusetts, Shrewsbury High School's "DREAM Team" (Daring to Reform Education on AIDS Matters), is under your consideration for national recognition on World AIDS Day, December 1, 1997. I understand that you will soon announce those honored by this recognition, and I write to you today in support of this outstanding group.

Both highly motivated and dedicated to the cause of educating people about AIDS, this group has worked tirelessly at the local and national level. They have volunteered at various activities on the local level with AIDS Project Worcester and culminated their many volunteer activities at the AIDS quilt display on the Washington Mall in October 1996. The DREAM Team has been recognized by the Ryan White Foundation and will receive their 1997 "Ryan's Angel Award" on December 6th in Indianapolis. Jeanne White, who travels the country speaking with young people, has been quoted as saying, "I have never seen a school district doing as much for AIDS education as Shrewsbury."

I firmly believe that this group and their grassroots effort symbolize the type of caring support we must emulate at the national level. "*AIDS is not over*," and we must help groups like the DREAM Team educate our nation about this preventable disease. It is my privilege to recommend this fine group of young people for such an honor.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

JPM:km

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID

10373

Writer First Name

John

Writer Last Name

Received Date

12/12/97

Addressed To

Thurman, Sandra

Sender's Organization

Elton John Aids Foundation

Sender's Street1

Sender's Street2

Sender's City

Beverly Hills

Sender's State

CA

Sender's Zip

Subject

Thanks at World Aids Day

☐ Response Needed?

Response Type

Response Date

Responder ID

Responder Name

Action Promised

Action Complet

Action Date

Notes

ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION

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HERB RITTS
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AL TELLER

December 9, 1997

Sandy Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
808 17th Street
Suite 820
Washington, D.C. 20006

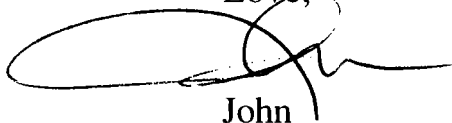
Dear Sandy,

A quick note to say how grateful I am for being included in the World AIDS Day events in Washington this year. I thought Elton had a tough schedule until I spent the day keeping up with you!

The opportunity to meet the Vice President and Ms. Gore will be a memory I will treasure. The day overall served as a good reminder of what we are working for.

I will be in touch about New Years Eve festivities.

Love,

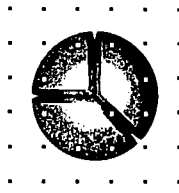


John



ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date	
10356	Ronald	Moss	12/8/97	
Addressed To				
Thurman, Sandra				
Sender's Organization				
The Immune Response Corp.				
Sender's Street1				
Sender's Street2				
Sender's City	Sender's State	Sender's Zip		
Subject				
Summary of Article				
☐ Response Needed?		Response Type	Response Date	Responder ID
Responder Name	Action Promised	Action Complet	Action Date	
Notes				



The Immune Response
Corporation

December 2, 1997

Ms. Sandy Thurman, Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
808 17th Street, NW
8th Floor
Washington DC 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Included is a copy of a pivotal study published in *Science* by eminent Harvard researcher Bruce Walker. The bottom line is that immune responses to the highly conserved epitopes of the virus (i.e. p24) are predicative of disease progression while envelope responses (gp120) are not. As you know we have published multiple studies of the capacity of REMUNE™ to stimulate p24 immune responses. I have included for your review a summary of previous data and ongoing trials of REMUNE™. Furthermore, data is also emerging that even the most potent antiviral drugs are not augmenting HIV-specific immunity. Thus, combining REMUNE™ with potent drugs appears to be a reasonable therapeutic strategy.

Studies like Dr. Walker's have spurred the scientific community to begin to develop a consensus around immune markers in order to expedite the evaluation of immune based therapies. Included is an announcement of the first such meeting sponsored by Dr. Robert Gallo. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

As you know, with the number of AIDS cases increasing dramatically world-wide, the need for cost effective and practical immune based therapies has never been greater. Please let me know if you would like to discuss further the ongoing world-wide studies of REMUNE™.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. Moss, MD
Senior Director of Medical
and Scientific Affairs

RBM/mlh

Enc.

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date
10345	Elizabeth	Minor	12/2/97

Addressed To

Thurman, Sandra

Sender's Organization

Intercultural Family Services, Inc.

Sender's Street1

Sender's Street2

Sender's City

Sender's State

Sender's Zip

Subject

met in Miami, forwarded info

☐ Response Needed?

Response Type

Response Date

Responder ID

Responder Name

Action Promised

Action Complet

Action Date

Notes



Intercultural Family Services, Inc.

4225 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 • Tel: (215) 386-1298 (24 Hours) • Fax: (215) 386-9348

November 20, 1997

Ms. Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of
National AIDS Policy
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20037

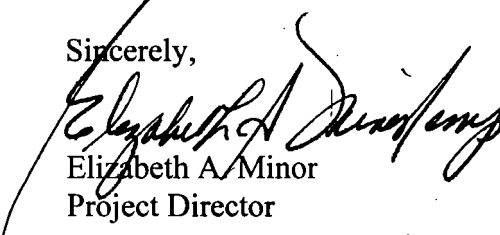
Dear Ms. Thurman:

I had the pleasure of meeting you at the United States Conference on AIDS in Miami, September 18-21, 1997, I always enjoy speaking with people who share my commitment to those living with HIV. I hope you found "A Profile of the Intercultural Training Institute: For People of All Cultures, By People of Color," interesting and useful in your work.

Enclosed is the complete document, "The People of Color Communities and HIV/AIDS: Assessment of the General Community and the Needs of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS," to which the training document refers. This is a research project of Intercultural Family Services, Inc. which was funded by the State of Pennsylvania Department of Health.

If you are interested in discussing this document or the possibilities of replication of this study, and the services of the Intercultural Training Institute, please feel free to contact me at 215-386-1298.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Minor
Project Director

cc: Jeremiah J. White, President
Evelyn Marcha-Hidalgo, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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EVELYN MARCHA-HIDALGO, *Executive Director*

The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID

10372

Writer First Name

Esther

Writer Last Name

Walter

Received Date

12/12/97

Addressed To

Thurman, Sandra

Sender's Organization

NEAC

Sender's Street1

Sender's Street2

Sender's City

Des Moines

Sender's State

IA

Sender's Zip

Subject

Annl Meeting bylaw changes

☒ Response Needed?

Response Type

Response Date

Responder ID

Responder Name

Action Promised

Action Complet

Action Date

Notes

Esther Walter
1650 Mar Ella Trail
Des Moines IA 50310-3820
515-279-2936 ewalter@ecity.net

9 December 1997

TO: The NEAC Board of Directors

NOMINATIONS AND BY-LAW CHANGES FOR THE JANUARY 1998 ANNUAL MEETING

Nominations for the slate of officers for 1998:

Co-chairs: The Rev. C. William Frampton III and Harriet Langfeldt
Vice Chair: The Rev. Richard F. Brewer
Secretary: The Rev. Gordon Chastain
Treasurer: Hart Rousset

Proposed by-law changes:

(To provide a mechanism for continuity upon retirement of president or chair)

To Article VII, add a new section 7.7 to read as follows: "In addition to the Directors described in the preceding sections of this article, an immediate past President or Chair or Co-chair, if his/her term on the board has expired and he/she is not eligible for re-election to the Board, shall be offered seat, voice and vote on the Board of Directors for one year."

(To allow for co-chairs and to change terminology from president to chair)

In Article IX, strike out the word "President" in all places where it appears and replace with the words "Chair or Co-chairs." In Article XII, Section 12.1, strike out the word "President" and replace with the words "Chair or Co-chairs." In Article XII, Section 12.2, strike out the words "President or Vice President" and replace with the words "Chair or Co-chairs, the Vice Chair." In Article XV, Section 15.1A, strike out the words "President, a Vice President," and replace with the words "Chair or Co-chairs, Vice Chair." In Article XV, Section 15.3, strike out the word "President" and replace with the words "Chair or Co-chairs." In Article XV, Section 15.4, strike out the words "Vice President" and replace with the words "Vice Chair."

(To eliminate the requirement for an Executive Director)

In Article XV, Section 15.7, strike out in the first sentence the word "shall" and replace with the word "may" so the sentence begins as follows: "The Board of Directors may appoint or employ an Executive Director."

ONAP Letter Tracking

Letter ID	Writer First Name	Writer Last Name	Received Date
10374	Maria	Echaveste	12/12/97

Addressed To

Thurman, Sandra

Sender's Organization

The White House

Sender's Street1

Sender's Street2

Sender's City

Sender's State

Sender's Zip

Subject

Hate Crimes

☒ Response Needed?

Response Type

Response Date

Responder ID

Responder Name

Action Promised

Action Complet

Action Date

Notes

attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1997

Hon. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
808 17th St. NW
Suite 820
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Thurman:

On behalf of President Clinton, I would like to thank you for your valuable contributions to the White House Conference on Hate Crimes. With your help the conference was a great success. However, the conference was only a beginning. There is much hard work ahead and your continued dedication to this cause will be critical to the success of these efforts.

As many of you requested, I am enclosing a list of the conference participants and a copy of the President's remarks.

I encourage you to fill out and return the enclosed memorandum for the President. Your comments and suggestions are important, as was your involvement in the conference. Thank you again for your commitment to this cause.

Sincerely,



Maria Echaveste
Assistant to the President

Thanks for all
your help and
support.
(Let's keep working
together!)
to

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Bill Clinton, c/o The White House Conference on Hate Crimes

FROM:

(Name, Title, Organization, Address, and Phone Number)

RE: The White House Conference on Hate Crimes

Please feel free to forward any comments or suggestions to The White House Conference on Hate Crimes, Old Executive Office Building, Room 149, Washington, DC 20502, or via facsimile to (202) 456-6682. Please call (202) 456-6350 with any questions.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HATE CRIMES

Participants

Mr. Elie Abboud
President/CEO
Randall Financial Corporation
25480 Aurora Road
Bedford Heights, OH 44146
(216) 786-1042
(216) 786-7966

Hon. Jerry Abramson
Mayor
City of Louisville
City Hall, First Floor
601 Jefferson St.
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 574-3061
(502) 574-4201

Mr. Mario Acosta-Velez
Executive Director
Latino Civil Rights Task Force
2701 Ontario Rd.
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 332-1053
(202) 483-7460

Hon. Aileen Adams
Director
Department of Justice Office for Victims
of Crime
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 307-5983
(202) 514-6383

Mr. Ismael Ahmed
Founder and Executive Director
Arab Community Center for Economic
and Social Services (ACCESS)
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Dearborn, MI 48120
(313) 842-7010
(313) 842-5150

Mr. Salam Al-Marayati
Muslim Political Action Committee
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Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 383-3443
(213) 383-9674

Hon. John Alario
State of Louisiana
1063 Muller Parkway
Westwego, LA 70094
(504) 340-2221
(504) 341-0794

Mr. Juan Andrade
President
United States Leadership Institute
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Suite 1203
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 427-8683
(312) 427-5183

Hon. Robert Anthony
Chief of Police
Provincetown
Town Hall, 260 Commercial St.
Provincetown, MA 02657
(508) 487-7000
(508) 487-7560

Rev. Wendell Anthony
Pastor
Fellowship Chapel
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Detroit, MI 48219
(313) 538-7620

Mr. Tomas Arciniega
President
California State University at Bakersfield
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Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099
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(805) 664-3188

Ms. Barbara Arnwine
Executive Director
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under
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Washington, DC 20005
(202) 662-8600
(202) 638-0482

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Deputy District Attorney
Los Angeles County
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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(213) 628-8352

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Women
Supervisor, Essex County Teenage Dating
Violence Program
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Upper Montclair, NJ 07043
(202) 296-2588
(202) 331-7792

Ms. Suzanne Bailliere
Unit Chief
Federal Bureau of Investigation--Hate
Crime Unit
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 324-5090
(202) 324-5310

Hon. Richard Barreto
Police Chief
Miami Beach Police Department
1100 Washington Ave.
Miami Beach, FL 33139
(305) 673-7925
(305) 673-7065

Hon. Jacqueline Barrett
President, NOBLE
Sheriff, Fulton County
185 Central Avenue
9th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 730-5100
(404) 730-5113

Mr. Dave Barron
The Department of Justice
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Washington, DC 20530
(202) 514-2000

Rev. Willie Barrow
Chair
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition
930 East 50th St.
Chicago, IL 60615
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(773) 373-3571

Mr. Michael Bastien
Violent Crimes Assistance
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(618) 457-5509

Mr. Wayne Bauman
Iowa Parent Teacher Association
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(515) 226-9614

Dr. Ronald Bell
President
North Idaho College
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Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
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(208) 769-3273

Mr. Peter Berendt
Principal
Mamaroneck Avenue Elementary School
Mamaroneck Ave.
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
(914) 698-9555
(914) 968-0436

Mr. Keith Bergman
Town Manager
Provincetown, MA
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HATE CRIMES

Dorothy Betts Marvin Theater
George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

President Trachtenberg, and members of the administration, Senator Kennedy, members of the House. And let me also say that in addition to all of you who are here, there are thousands of people at satellite-link conferences all over the country.

We have heard today two moving personal testimonies from a person who gave his life in law enforcement and from a young person just beginning her adult life, but having already lived a lifetime of experiences that we wish she had never endured. They both teach us in different ways that our families and our country can only thrive if they're free from the fear of crime and violence. And we have to do everything we can to give them that security. That's the main reason we decided to hold this White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

As I said this morning to those of you who were at the breakfast, all over the world we see what happens when racial or ethnic or religious animosity joins with lawlessness. We've seen countries and people and families torn apart. We've seen countries go from peace to wholesale internecine slaughter in a matter of months. We've seen people rise up and fight each other over issues that they thought had been dormant for centuries.

But even in America we hear too many stories like the one Chuennee told us, too many stories like the 13-year-old African American boy nearly beaten to death when he rode his bicycle through the wrong neighborhood, the gay American murdered as he walked home from work, the Asian American who lost her store to a firebomb hurled by a racist, the Jewish American whose house of worship was desecrated by swastikas.

We hear too many of these stories -- stories of violent acts which are not just despicable acts of bias and bigotry, they are crimes. They strike at the heart of what it means to be an American. They are the antithesis of the values that define us as a nation. They have nothing to do with freedom or equality or respect for the law, and most importantly, they prevent us from respecting one another.

Last year I asked the American people to begin a great national conversation on race, to

come together across all the lines that divide us into one America. We know we can only fight prejudice by fighting the misunderstanding and the ignorance and the fear that produce it. One of the things that I hope will come out of this year is a national affirmation that violence motivated by prejudice and hatred, as Chuennee said, hurts us all. Anybody who thinks that in the world of today and tomorrow, that he or she can hide from the kind of poison that we see in various places in our country, is living in a dream world. Whether we like it or not, our futures are bound together, and it is time we acted like it.

The first thing we have to do is to make sure our nation's laws fully protect all of its citizens. Our laws already punish some crimes committed against people on the basis of race or religion or national origin, but we should do more. We should make our current laws tougher to include all hate crimes that cause physical harm. We must prohibit crimes committed because of a victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability. All Americans deserve protection from hate.

I want to thank Senator Kennedy and Senator Specter, who will soon introduce legislation to achieve these goals, and I want to tell you that I will do my best to help them see this legislation become the law of our land.

The second thing we have to do is to make sure our civil rights laws are consistently and vigorously enforced. Under Attorney General Reno's leadership, the Justice Department has taken aim at hate crimes with more prosecutions and tougher punishments. Starting today, every United States Attorney in our country will establish or expand working groups to develop enforcement strategies, share best practices, and educate the public about hate crimes. This national hate crimes network will marshal the resources of federal, state and local enforcement, community groups, educators, and antiviolence advocates, to give us another powerful tool in the struggle against hate crimes.

I'm also pleased to announce that we will assign over 50 more FBI agents and prosecutors to work on hate crimes enforcement. And the Justice Department will make its own hate crimes training curriculum available to state and local law enforcement training centers all around America.

Finally, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Justice Department are launching an important new initiative that will help victims of housing-related hate crimes bring action against their attackers and get money damages for the harm they suffer.

When it comes to enforcing civil rights law, let me also remind you that we need strong leadership. I have nominated Bill Lann Lee to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice because I'm convinced he'll provide that leadership. He is a son of Chinese immigrants who has seen the damaging force of discrimination. He has dedicated his career to fighting for equal rights, without regard to ideology or political party. Everyone who heard him in the Senate was impressed with his background, his record, his demeanor, his capacity, and yet, we are being told that the Senate will not be allowed to vote on him because he supports his own President's position on affirmative action.

Now, with all respect, if we have to wait until we get a head of the Civil Rights Division who is opposed to affirmative action, that job will be vacant for a very long time. We had an election about that.

On the other hand, let's not forget, this is but a tiny slice of what the Civil Rights Division does. We have laws on the books against discrimination that 90 percent of the American people support, and they need to be enforced vigorously by somebody who embodies the American ideal. It is wrong to deny this man that job because he agrees with the policies of his President on that issue. It is wrong.

All I ask the Senate committee to do is just to send his name out. They don't even have to make a recommendation; just let the Senate vote. Let all 100 senators stand up and be counted in the full view of the American people and let them know their stand.

Let me also say that in addition to enforcement, in addition to pushing for new laws, in addition to training our own people and others better, let's also admit one thing -- we have a lot of law enforcement officials who have worked on this -- a lot of hate crimes still go unreported. I see a lot of you nodding your head up and down. If a crime is unreported, that gives people an excuse to ignore it.

I'm pleased to announce that today for the first time the National Crime Victimization Survey used by the Justice Department will finally include questions about hate crimes, so we can report them on a national basis along with others. It may seem like a small addition, but it will yield large results. It will give us a better measure of the number of hate crimes and it will increase what we know about how they occur.

Let me say, lastly, all of us have to do more in our communities through organizations like the one that Chuennee was part of in putting into Brooklyn High School and in our own homes and places of worship to teach all of our children about the dignity of every person. I'm very pleased that the Education and the Justice Departments will distribute to every school district in the country a hate crimes resource guide. The guide will direct educators to the materials they can use to teach tolerance and mutual respect. And also the Justice Department is launching a Web site where younger students can learn about prejudice and the harm it causes.

Children have to be taught to hate. And as they come more and more of age and they get into more and more environments where they can be taught that, we need to make sure that somebody is teaching them not to do so.

I wouldn't be surprised if, today, some of the skinheads that threw rocks and bottles at Chuennee when she was a little girl have grown out of it and are frankly ashamed of what they did. I wouldn't be surprised if some of them weren't ashamed of it the day they did it -- but they just wanted to go along, to get along, to be part of the group. But some of the people who were subject to that, some of the people who were on the bus with her, on the street with her are not here today to make the speech she gave. I'll bet you some of the people were scarred in ways that they never got over.

So as important as it is to enforce the law, to punish people, to do all this -- all this is very important -- the most important thing we can do is to reach these kids while they're young enough to learn. Somebody is going to be trying to teach them to hate. We want to teach them a different way. And in the end, if we all do our part for that, we can make America one nation under God.

Thank you.