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Montgomery County Nursing Advisory May 12, 1994

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News Release

Contact: A. Cornelius Baker
Director, Public Policy & Education
202.898.0414

A CALL FOR THE RESIGNATION OF KRISTINE GEBBIE AS THE NATIONAL AIDS POLICY COORDINATOR

William J. Freeman
Executive Director

Washington, D.C.
May 11, 1994



NAPWA

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF PEOPLE
WITH AIDS

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) calls for the resignation of Kristine Gebbie as the National AIDS Policy Coordinator.

At the request of NAPWA, Ms. Gebbie met today with the NAPWA staff and the Policy Committee Chair of NAPWA's Board of Directors. The meeting was called to discuss the Office of National AIDS Policy and its role in the implementation of a national strategy to end the HIV epidemic.

Regretfully, we do not believe that Ms. Gebbie can provide the strong leadership that is necessary in this challenging position. Nearly one year after being appointed, Ms. Gebbie has proven incapable of creating a significant role for the Office of National AIDS Policy. A concrete strategy to address the multiple challenges of the HIV epidemic has not been forthcoming. More than one million Americans are currently living with HIV disease, and already hundreds of thousands of Americans have died of AIDS. In the face of this devastating epidemic, the lack of urgency that Ms. Gebbie brings to this office is unacceptable.

The challenge of HIV in the United States demands that we wage a war on this disease. While our nation has made progress in its attempts to address the HIV epidemic, piecemeal solutions exist where comprehensive and decisive action is required. An action plan must be implemented to address not only the medical and scientific aspects of HIV disease, but also the social and economic circumstances that contribute to the destructiveness of this epidemic. Without addressing poverty, racism, and homophobia -- root causes of the epidemic -- any "National HIV Action Agenda" is assured of failure.

President Clinton must take the lead in building both a national consensus and a political framework that will enable us to end the HIV epidemic. We

-- more --

1415 K Street, N.W.,
10th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
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Senaw —

334-2351

believe that the President must move quickly to invigorate the Office of National AIDS Policy and provide the following:

- o **Visionary Leadership.** We can end the HIV epidemic. We must clearly demonstrate a commitment to this goal through prevention and research that focuses on a cure. Action must follow words. President Clinton must articulate a vision for ending the HIV epidemic and he must work with the Congress and all of our national leaders to implement an action plan for the nation with clearly identified goals, objectives, and responsibilities.
- o **Coordination and Strategy.** Thirteen years into the epidemic, precious time continues to be squandered. All branches and departments of the federal government, key representatives of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and individual Americans must be brought together to create a framework that will produce immediate results. We call upon President Clinton to convene a dynamic and forceful working group within the White House to direct the implementation of a comprehensive action plan.
- o **Resources.** In order to defeat the HIV epidemic, the Clinton Administration must establish clear priorities for the targeted allocation of scarce resources. The Clinton Administration must set priorities that include targeted research on promising therapies, a national prevention campaign and increased funding for crucial medical and support services. In addition to setting these priorities, the Office of National AIDS Policy must take responsibility for securing the resources needed to address all aspects of the HIV epidemic.

NAPWA continues to view the Office of the National AIDS Policy Coordinator as an essential leadership center for the nation's response to the devastation of the HIV epidemic. However, President Clinton must reexamine the structure and role of this office with the urgency that this epidemic demands.

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NAPWA supports all Americans affected by the HIV epidemic with information and educational resources, national advocacy for people living with HIV disease and technical assistance programs for community-based organizations. In an effort to prevent the spread of HIV disease and facilitate a richer quality of life for HIV-infected individuals, NAPWA builds meaningful partnerships among people with HIV, service providers, business, government and philanthropy.

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1994
Washington.

8:15a Staff car pick-up for travel to Humphrey, Room 738-G.

8:30a Meeting with Nancy and Art to discuss Nancy's workplan.
 (30m).

9:00a Meeting with Richard LeFante to discuss NAPC Retreat in
 Rm. 728-F. (1h).

10:00a Staff car pick-up for travel to 750.

11:00a Meeting with Richard Quattrochi of Anonymous Testing
 Services to discuss home HIV testing. Staff present:
 T. Fox (20m).

12:00p Interview by telephone for WILL (AM)-Radio (Urbana,
 IL), "Focus 580" call in show on HIV/AIDS policies and
 programs. (1h).

1:15p Staff car pick-up for travel to Indian Spring Country
 Club, 13501 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, MD.

2:00p Speech before Montgomery County Nursing Advisory
 Council on HIV/AIDS and community health nursing.
 (45m).

2:45p Staff car pick-up for travel to 750.

4:00p Phone interview with Baltimore Sun. (15m).

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 1994

Ms. Judith R. Covich, R.N., M.A.
Chairperson
Nursing Advisory Council
Division of Family Health Services
Montgomery County Department of Health
7th Floor
401 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850-4155

Dear Ms. Covich:

This letter confirms that Kristine M. Gebbie, National AIDS Policy Coordinator, will give the keynote address for the Montgomery County Nursing Advisory Council luncheon at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, 1994 at the Indian Spring Country Club in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Please call me at (202) 632-1090 with any questions or for further clarification. I am enclosing a biographical sketch and curriculum vitae for your reference.

Sincerely,

W. Steve Lee

W. Steve Lee, Executive Assistant
and Scheduler to the
National AIDS Policy Coordinator

Enclosures

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Division of Family Health ServicesArea Health Center 401 Hungerford DriveFAX # 217-1575Telephone # 217-4801 ¹⁶²⁶

MAR 31 1994

FAX MESSAGE

TO: Mrs. Christine GebbieNo. of Pages 2
(including this page)FROM: J. Covich / Mary TiffDATE: 3/30/94

RE: _____

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Department of Health
Division of Family Health Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 7th Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850-4155 (301) 217-1600

March 30, 1994

2nd PM.
Confirm

Ms. Christine Gebbie, R.N.
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
Executive Office of the President
750 17th Street N.W., Suite 1060
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Gebbie:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Montgomery County Nursing Advisory Council to invite you to deliver the keynote address at a luncheon to recognize the contributions of community health nurses in Montgomery County. We have scheduled activities, including a luncheon and presentation of awards, at Indian Spring Country Club, 13501 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906 on Thursday, May 12, 1994, from 1:00 - 3:30 PM.

Approximately 180 community health nurses and supervisory personnel are expected to attend. A feature of the celebration will be to announce the recipient of the Community Health Nurse Recognition Award which is sponsored by the Montgomery County Medical Society.

We sincerely hope that it will be possible for you to join us. In light of our relatively short time frame, we ask that you please respond as soon as possible. You may reach me by telephone at 301-217-1626, by FAX at 301-217-1575 or by mail c/o Division of Family Health Services, 401 Hungerford Drive, Suite 700, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith R. Covich".
Judith R. Covich, R.N., M.A.
Chairperson, Nursing Advisory Council

JC/mb
VS284

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Comments of

Kristine M. Gebbie, R.N., M.N.
National AIDS Policy Coordinator

before the

Montgomery County Nursing Council

Community Health Nurses and HIV

May 12, 1994

- I. The Basics of HIV response
 - A. research
 - B. services
 - C. prevention
- II. The role of nurses in each area
 - A. research
 - 1. weakest contribution
 - 2. making some headway via NINR
 - a. example--trial of exercise for HIV+'s
 - B. services
 - 1. often mentioned by pts as difference in life
 - 2. have helped start many organizations
 - 3. may well be essential in transition to reform
 - C. prevention
 - 1. one of the consistent voices in the community
 - 2. not fully involved as special units have evolved
 - 3. focus on universal precautions diverts from risk in personal life
- III. What are the continuing challenges
 - A. mastering the science of this disease
 - 1. ex: the Revolution campaign
 - B. understanding human sexuality
 - 1. AND learning how to talk about it!
 - C. incorporating prevention into all programs
 - 1. MCH?
 - 2. Injury prevention?