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Series/Staff Member: Kristine Gebbie
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Mr. Brian Tumulty, Gannett News Service, Interview, 5/13/94

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AP v5031 rw 3exec AIDS Coordinator, 440

05-13 8:44a

AIDS Coordinator Plans to Keep Job Despite Campaign for Her Resignation

By PAUL RECER

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Two national AIDS groups are asking for Kristine Gebbie's resignation, but President Clinton's AIDS policy coordinator said she has no intention of quitting.

"I'm not leaving. I've got work to do," Gebbie said Thursday. She said she has the support of the president and is busy on a federal AIDS action plan.

In press releases issued Thursday, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, or ACT UP, and the National Association of People with AIDS asked other AIDS organizations to support a campaign to force Gebbie's ouster.

A spokeswoman for the American Foundation for AIDS Research would not comment on the campaign.

Gebbie said she met with officers of the association Wednesday night and the discussion was completely cordial. She said there was no indication the group intended to campaign for her resignation.

John Gurrola, a spokesman for Gebbie, said he was dumbfounded when he learned of the action. He released a copy of a letter sent to Gebbie on April 29 in which the association and nine other national AIDS organizations were commending Gebbie for "beginning a comprehensive HIV-AIDS planning process at the federal level."

ACT UP was not among the 10 AIDS groups that signed the letter.

In a news release, ACT UP's Wayne Turner and Steve Michael said the organization has opposed Gebbie since she was selected as the nation's AIDS coordinator. Gebbie took office last August.

In a telephone interview, Turner said the AIDS coordinator's job "had no power" and Gebbie "doesn't have the personality to make it something."

William J. Freeman, executive director of the association, said his organization "supported her and worked hard with her for nine months. But now we believe she is incapable of marshaling the support at the federal level" that is needed to combat the AIDS epidemic.

At the very least, said Freeman, his organization wants Gebbie to take action on recommendations made by the National Commission on AIDS.

In a point-by-point rebuttal, Gurrola said that Gebbie's office or Clinton has taken action on each of the recommendations by the national commission.

Clinton, said Gurrola, has "talked more about AIDS than all of the previous presidents," working the subject into speeches on health care, housing and other issues "about once every two weeks."

Although Gebbie's job is not a Cabinet-level post, Gurrola said, she is a member of the White House domestic policy council and meets frequently with cabinet secretaries and with Clinton.

AP V5236 rw 3exec AIDS Coordinator, 620

05-12 6:06p

AIDS Coordinator Plans To Keep Job Despite Campaign For Her Resignation

By PAUL RECER

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Kristine Gebbie said Thursday she will continue as President's Clinton's AIDS policy coordinator, despite urging by two national AIDS interest groups that she resign.

Gebbie said in an interview that she has Clinton's support and has no intention to step down.

"I've got work to do," she said.

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, or ACT UP, and the National Association of People with AIDS, or NAPWA, issued press releases Thursday calling for other AIDS organizations to support their campaign for the ouster of Gebbie.

A spokeswoman for the American Foundation for AIDS Research, another large national organization, said her group had no comment on the campaign by ACT UP and NAPWA.

Gebbie said the action by NAPWA came as a surprise. She said she met with officers of the organization Wednesday night and the discussion was "completely cordial." She said there was no indication that the group intended to campaign for her resignation.

John Gurrola, a spokesman for Gebbie, said he was "dumbfounded" when he learned of the action by NAPWA and ACT UP. He released a copy of a letter sent to Gebbie on April 29 in which NAPWA and nine other national AIDS organizations were "commending" Gebbie for "beginning a comprehensive HIV/AIDS planning process at the federal level."

ACT UP was not among the 10 AIDS groups that signed the letter.

In a news release, ACT UP's Wayne Turner and Steve Michael said the organization has opposed Gebbie from the time she was selected as the nation's AIDS coordinator. Gebbie took office last August.

"Frustration with Gebbie and her lack of power and vision has been growing for months," said the news release.

It called for Gebbie to leave and for Clinton to elevate the AIDS coordinator's office to a cabinet level "and place someone of strength and stature such as Connecticut Gov. Lowell Weicker."

In a telephone interview, Turner said that the AIDS coordinator's job "had no power" and Gebbie "doesn't have the personality to make it something."

William J. Freeman, executive director of NAPWA, said his organization has supported Gebbie until now.

"We supported her and worked hard with her for nine months," said Freeman. "But now we believe she is incapable of marshalling the support at the federal level" that is needed to combat the AIDS epidemic.

"We're looking for some effort (against AIDS) like the Manhattan Project," said Freeman, referring to the World War II crash program that led to development of the atomic bomb.

At the very least, said Freeman, his organization wants Gebbie to take action on recommendations made by the National Commission on AIDS.

In a point-by-point rebuttal, Gurrola said that Gebbie's office or President Clinton have taken action on each of the recommendations by the national commission.

Clinton, said Gurrola, has "talked more about AIDS than all of the previous presidents," working the subject into speeches on health care, housing and other issues "about once every two weeks."

One commission recommendation called for establishing the coordinator's job that can deal directly with cabinet officers. Gurrola said Gebbie is a member of the domestic policy council, along with the cabinet secretaries, and meets frequently with Clinton.

On another commission recommendation, Gurrola said that a draft of a plan for a federally coordinated campaign against AIDS has been written and now is being evaluated by other government agencies.

Gurrola said that Clinton has proposed spending more than a half billion dollars on AIDS research, and has asked for \$300 million to treat drug addicts. Both of these actions follow recommendations by the commission, he said.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FY 95 BUDGET INFORMATION

Summary

The FY 1995 budget includes \$2.7 billion in budget authority for the PHS for research, prevention and other related activities in the battle against AIDS and HIV infection. This is an increase of \$177 million, or 7 percent, over the FY 1994 appropriations. The funds requested for HIV/AIDS activities are included in the budget for each of the PHS components. The tables below summarize the entire PHS-wide HIV/AIDS effort, both by PHS agency and by function.

For FY 1995, the President's Budget proposes a \$93 million, or 16 percent, increase for HRSA's Ryan White AIDS health care services, and a \$78 million, or 6 percent increase for NIH basic and preventive research on AIDS. (More detailed discussions of these program increases for AIDS are included in the individual agency sections.)

HIV/AIDS FUNDING BY PHS COMPONENT
(Dollars in millions)

	1993 Actual	1994 Approp.	1995 Request	+/-
FDA.....	\$73	\$72	\$72	
HRSA.....	390	608	701	+\$93
IHS.....	3	4	4	-
CDC.....	498	543	543	-
NIH.....	1071	1301	1379	+\$78
SAMHSA.....	26	28	33	+\$5
AHCPR.....	10	11	12	+\$1
OASH.....	5	5	5	-
TOTAL, HIV/AIDS				
Budget Authority.....	2077	2572	2749	+177

SUBSTANCE ABUSE DOLLARS

In FY 94 \$1.1 Billion was appropriated for block grants to states for substance abuse treatment. Through the efforts of the Office of the National Drug Control Policy Coordinator an additional \$310 Million will be added to FY 95. This money is to be used by states for the most severe substance abuse cases, such as injecting drug abusers, who are at great risk for HIV transmission. \$15.5 Million of the new money will be specifically earmarked for HIV-related substance abuse programs. Of the original \$1.1 Billion, approximately 25 Million is also specifically earmarked for HIV related programs. (This number will be adjusted based on number of states that qualify in the coming weeks.) Because such abusers are at high risk for HIV transmission, this budget line is a significant part of federal AIDS prevention programs.

Office of National AIDS Policy

Federal HIV Funding

(In Millions of Dollars)

	FY 1994 <u>Enacted</u>	FY 1995 <u>Budget</u>	Dollar Increase <u>FY 94 to FY</u> <u>95</u>	Percent Increase <u>FY 94 to FY</u> <u>95</u>
Public Health Service	2,572	2,749	+177	+7%
Office of Civil Rights	3	3	+0	+0%
Veterans	331	349	+18	+5%
Defense	129	99	-30	-23%
Housing	253	257	+4	+2%
OPM-FEHB	193	213	+20	+10%
*Other	129	131	+2	+2%
Total Appropriations	3610	3,801	+191	+5%
Medicaid (Federal Share)	1,490	1,640	+150	+10%
Medicare	500	600	+100	+20%
Social Security	835	1,015	+180	+22%
Total Entitlement	2,825	3,255	+430	+15%
Total Spending	6,435	7,056	+621	+10%

* Includes USDAID, Bureau of Prisons, State, and Labor.

Note: Provided as draft by Office of Management and Budget 2/7/94.

TO: Jeff Perkins, assistant to the National AIDS Policy
Coordinator (fax 202-632-1096)
FROM: Brian Tumulty, Gannett News Service (703-276-5978)
DATE: May 11, 1994
RE: Interview with Kristine Gebbie scheduled for 1 p.m. on May 13

Here are the general questions I plan to ask:

1. You are the first person to hold this position. What are the challenges of being the nation's AIDS policy coordinator?
2. You have been described as the administration's AIDS policy czar. How much power do you really have?
3. In one interview you said that your primary White House contact is Carol Rascoe, the president's domestic adviser. Does that mean you don't have regular access to President Clinton?
4. How much is the federal government spending on AIDS research? Where is that money going? Does our nation need to spend more? What role will you play in that debate?
5. Next week you will visit Rockland County in New York, where there is a large Haitian community. Are Rockland residents particularly at risk to become infected with the AIDS virus because of the Haitian presence in their community?
6. How frequently do you make public speaking appearances? What types of questions do you get from people?
7. What would you advise community leaders to do to effect AIDS policy?
8. How much emphasis should be placed on distributing condoms to sexually active high school students? And what's your opinion of school programs that stress sexual abstinence?
9. You've talked publicly about the growing percentage of women infected with the AIDS virus. What are the national statistics and the particular federal policies that can address that trend?
10. How controversial is your support for distributing clean needles to heroine addicts? Is it less controversial in large metropolitan areas?
11. Are there other viruses out there that someday may be the same kind of public health threat as AIDS? What's being done to prevent another epidemic?
