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Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member: Patsy Fleming

Subseries: National AIDS Strategy

OA/ID Number: 10182

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Patsy Fleming Speeches - October 1995

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[NY - 11]

I'm very happy to be with you tonight. I bring greetings from President Clinton, who thanks you for your involvement.

The President and I care deeply about the impact that AIDS is having on great American cities like New York. That's why we're fighting so hard with the Congress to get more money for AIDS research, prevention, and care.

We also cares a great deal about young people. We knows -- as you do -- that young people represent the future of this country and that if we don't protect your health we will have a dimmer future.

I recognize that I'm the only person standing between you and the music, so I'm going to make my comments very brief.

First, let me thank the remarkable people at Lifebeat who organized and put on this concert, especially Andre Hurell, Veronica Webb, Tim Rosta and Fred Jackson. I'd also like to thank all of the performers who are here tonight and who have so generously donated their time and talents to help fight AIDS and drop some science on us. I, personally, love the sounds of Queen Latifa, Mary J. Bridge, Salt-N-Pepa and Jodeci [pronounced Joe-De-See] and my son, Doug, is down with the sounds of TLC, the Wu-Tang Clan, Heavy D, the Notorious "B"-"I"-"G" to name just a

few. I know some of you have written some wonderful songs or rhymes that deal with safe sex and AIDS awareness. Now I call on all of you to write one song or rhyme -- or one more, that will help get the message out and save lives! And, most importantly, let me thank all of you **[POINT TO CROWD]** for coming out to show your support for AIDS awareness.

I don't need to tell you how important AIDS awareness is. Our country has been living with AIDS for nearly 15 years and more Americans have died of AIDS than were killed in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War combined. Today, 100 Americans die of AIDS every day.

Until we have a cure, the only way to stop this epidemic is through education and prevention.

That means safer sex!

That means no sharing of needles!

That means not mixing drugs and alcohol and sex!

And that means not only knowing how to prevent AIDS but acting on that information. Not just sometimes, but always. All it takes is once and you can get infected and then you will die - that's it, bye bye-see ya. The bad news is that you are

the AIDS generation. Many of you were born after this epidemic began. Some of you are coming of age in the middle of it. And like it or not all of you have to deal with it.

The good news is you are the ones who are going to lead us out of this mess. Young people have the power to change the course of the AIDS epidemic. You have the power to save not only your own lives but the lives of millions of other people your age -- and those who are younger than you.

We need to change the direction of this epidemic because the current direction is very troubling. Last year, 10,000 American teenagers became infected with the virus that causes AIDS. That's one in every four infections. And AIDS is having a particularly serious impact on young people of color. It is the leading cause of death of black males ages 25-44!! On the average, those infections occurred in people between the ages of 15-34. Our brother Eazy E was only 32 when he was dropped by this deadly disease.

AIDS is rapidly becoming a young person's disease. We can't let that happen. We can't!

I had the honor to meet Pedro Zamora before he died from AIDS, some of you may remember him from MTV's show "The Real World", and I got to talk to him about the important work he did

as a peer educator. He recognized the power that he had to save other young men and women from the fate he saw ahead of him. He used that power to educate young people and old people -- including a lot of people in Washington.

Pedro's gone now but many of you here tonight have the power to be the next Pedro. You can save lives but only if you get involved and stay involved.

Your presence here tonight is proof that you care and that you want to help. Don't let that end tonight. Keep caring and keep helping because you can make a difference.

Peace.

Good afternoon. And thank you for that gracious introduction. I am so very glad to be here. This conference and those of you who attend it each year represent the heart and soul of our nation's response to the HIV epidemic. I am proud to be with you today and to be associated with your work. I also want to commend the three national organizations who work so hard to make this annual conference happen. NMAC, NAPWA, and ANIN -- in working so well together -- provide a model for all of us.

I want this to be a dialogue today, so I will keep my remarks brief. I will find ways during the question and answer period to tell you about the fine work of this Administration:

... about its unprecedented commitment to fully funding all AIDS programs, including the Ryan White CARE Act,

...about its commitment to finding a cure for HIV and its strong support for the work of the Office of AIDS Research and the scientists at NIH,

...and its commitment to including those infected and affected by HIV in all aspects of decision making -- from Ryan White Planning Councils and HIV Prevention Planning Groups to all other aspects of Federal AIDS policy making,

I won't say any of that just now.

But I will say that after 12 long years of Federal non-leadership that shunned the AIDS community, how wonderful it is to be in an Administration that embraces the AIDS community. This will culminate in December with the first ever White House Conference on HIV/AIDS -- bringing Americans to the White House complex to discuss the impact of HIV on this country.

And I will say how great it felt when the Clinton Administration stood up and just said no to Jesse Helms and the negative amendments he tried to attach to the Ryan White CARE Act.

And I will say how proud I was of the President when he spoke out to the American people about the bigotry behind what Jesse Helms was doing and said there was no place for these attitudes in American society.

I know these are hard times for those of you on the front lines of this epidemic -- whether you provide direct care, support services, housing, or prevention. While the President is fighting for increases in funding for your programs, the Republicans in Congress are busy freezing or slashing budgets.

While AIDS programs have generally been spared the budget axe, we're clearly not keeping pace with the epidemic. Essentially flat federal funding, when combined with the major growth in cases we are seeing in many states and cities, spells disaster for your capacity to keep up with the demand placed on your programs.

This has major implications for how we do our work. In the programs we run, we need to make sure that the basics are taken care of first -- that we are plugging the holes in the safety net-- the old holes that are still in need of repair and the new ones the Republicans are punching out for us.

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But when all is said and done, our first priority must be to assure as many people with HIV as possible the basic primary care and treatments they need -- even if it means shifting resources from other services.

It also means that the AIDS community must redouble its own advocacy and education efforts on policy issues. When resources are tight, there is always a tendency among community-based organizations to focus on programs and drop policy education efforts. That is totally understandable: the needs of the person with HIV in your waiting room are far more real than the abstract need to make the AIDS community's voice louder in Washington or your state capital.

But the truth is, as things get tougher, the AIDS community cannot be silent -- because then things will get even worse, not better. We can, together, fight to preserve basic public health programs in this country. But if you drop out of this fight, then next year you will have to turn even more people away.

And you must make your voice heard not just in Washington and your state capitals. You must also educate your clients about what their elected officials are doing for them or to them. You must train your clients not just to be advocates in

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Obviously, it's not just on AIDS-specific programs where the AIDS community's voice needs to be heard. In fact, as high as the stakes may be on issues like reauthorizing Ryan White or funding HIV prevention programs, the stakes are even higher for people living with HIV in the current battle over the future of Medicaid.

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And I assure you that the President will be there too -- ready with his veto pen if the Republicans insist on sending forward cuts of this magnitude.

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Thank you for your attention.

SKILLS BUILDING
10/20/95 Los Angeles

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AIDS primary care
specialize AIDS care

AIDS & ? health
Registration

Susan Dewar
question - Does ADA apply to Medicaid
Sen Braun -
~~should insist~~

Jeff Levi

Pat Frank
PPGs -
? Lose comm. planning
Hard for advocates to lobby

Miguelina -
PPG Guidelines - don't require comm. planning. Only comm. participation
No requirement for states to focus on continuing successful programs

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Medicaid

Phila - Managed care

55% profit - private co.

What protections will we have that.

Waivers

Loss of fed oversight + accountability

Irene

Need representation of ♀ - Council + conference.

Martina

National Agenda for ♀

Regional meetings

Ron Rowell

1) IHS is isolated in policy-making

Think how we can integrate.

Not getting Rx either.

2) IHS abolishing Reg. Coordinators - AID

Bemidji

Albequerque

Nashville

Leonard - Bkln Red AIDS Inst.

HIV + male parent.

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SKILLS BUILDING
Los Ang.
10/20/95

Pasadena AIDS Svc. Ctr.
Carving out $ from other pgms for AIDS.

Medicaid -
ADA
Who does she sue

State
Outreach worker
Fate of HIV care networks
Title 2

T2
Admin costs / consortia $

e

? Coverage thru AFDC -
Not yet covered by SSI not disabled.
Some states -

Raise with Welfare people

Portland -
Native Amer - PPGs - Where are Indian tribes fitting in?
First pre-paid H&C system
- Paid many ways.

what Jesse Helms was doing and said there was no place for these attitudes in American society.

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Houston

Judge - Title I funds -

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But when all is said and done, our first priority must be to assure as many people with HIV as possible the basic primary care and treatments they need [redacted]

~~shifting resources from other services.~~

[redacted]

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vote on the spot. That's how we can turn things around. Register and then make sure to go to the polls.

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all but 3 Senators. Voice vote in the House!

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Thank you. I'll take your questions now.

Remarks of

Patricia S. Fleming

National AIDS Policy Director

to

Jay County AIDS Task Force

October 12, 1995

GOOD EVENING:

visit Portland Indiana

Thank you for that gracious introduction. I want to thank John Moser, Exec. dir. of the Jay County AIDS Task Force **for his invitation to ~~join you~~. As I'm sure you all know, John is a remarkable person and a remarkable leader. His lends his voice and his heart and his ~~vision to the fight to defeat AIDS~~.**

~~and his~~ courage to helping people with ~~AIDS~~ HIV and AIDS.

I bring greetings to all of you **from President Clinton, who ~~is very concerned about the status~~** has demonstrated his concern for the people affected by this epidemic and his dedication to the fight against it. **of this epidemic. In fact, in December, the President will hold the first White House Conference on HIV and AIDS to highlight the very real needs of the people of this nation** and the efforts of his administration.

There is no reason to shun them. They should be offered compassion. A hand. A shoulder. They should not have to hide. Fear causes discrimination. ~~Those of you here tonight understand that knowledge is what we need AIDS awareness can eliminate fear.~~

When most Americans think about AIDS, they don't think of small towns like Portland. They think AIDS is a problem that only affects big cities like New York and Los Angeles. To them, AIDS is someone else's problem. Well, you and I know that's not true. ~~AIDS is everyone's problem because AIDS can happen anywhere to anyone.~~ Fear also causes discrimination. Those of you here tonight understand that knowledge is power. AIDS awareness can give us the power to eliminate fear.

It's hard to believe that this epidemic has been with us for nearly 15 years. In that time, more than 270,000 Americans have died of AIDS and nearly half a million Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS. Here in Indiana, the number of cases has been much smaller but they are growing. Between 1981 and the middle of this year, more than 3,500 people in Indiana have been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 2,000 people have already died. Last year alone, more than 600 cases were reported in Indiana and nearly 300 people lost their lives to this ~~insidious~~ tragic disease.

I am also very concerned with the latest trends in the AIDS epidemic. For the last five years, we have been unable to reduce the number of new HIV infections below 40,000 a year. As a result, an estimated one million Americans are living with HIV but have not yet been diagnosed with AIDS. That means we will not see a drop in the number of new cases until well into the next decade.

I am even more concerned by the fact that those who are becoming infected are getting younger and younger. At the beginning of the epidemic, HIV usually hit people in their twenties or thirties. Now, fully one-quarter of all new infections occur in people under the age of 20. And half of new infections occur in people under 25. That means 10,000 American teenagers are becoming infected every year. And many of them are in small communities like Portland.

As I told the high school class this morning, young people have got to learn that they have the power to protect themselves from HIV. Young people who are not having sex should wait as long as possible before they begin. But we can't turn our backs on young people who are having sex. Because we know that 71 percent of high school seniors have already had sex in this country. We have to let young people know that if they are going to have sex, they must use a latex condom each and every time they do. They must. It's a matter of life and death.

We also must reach out to young people who are tempted by drugs. People who use injectible drugs like heroin and at a very high risk for HIV if they share needles.

But it's not just heroin users who are at risk. Their partners are also at risk. It is estimated that half of all new infections are a direct result of injectible drug use and another one-quarter are infected indirectly by drug-using sex partners.

And young people who use other drugs often put themselves at risk because their judgment is compromised.

I am convinced that the best way to protect young people is to involve them directly in AIDS prevention. Peer counselors are some of the best educators we have. If young people are going to believe the message they have to believe in the messenger.

Pedro Zamora

We also have to make sure that people living with AIDS have the services they need to stay healthy for as long as possible. One of our best tools in this battle is named for a remarkable young man who came from ~~this~~ the state of Indiana. The Ryan White CARE Act ~~is~~ can be a lifeline to people with AIDS, particularly those who live in small and rural communities. It provides funding for local clinics to provide the specialized care that people need. But nevertheless, I am very proud of the fact that the Clinton Administration has increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act by 82 percent in two years. Here in Indiana, the CARE Act has provided nearly nine million dollars, including 1.5 million dollars ~~this year~~ in 1995.

Kim Wheat

As I learned today from a social worker who coordinates care for persons living with HIV and AIDS, the ~~funds~~ Ryan White CARE funds are far from adequate. ~~But they~~ [illegible]

Another important source of support for people with AIDS is the Medicaid program. ~~Fully~~ One-half of all people living with AIDS in this country -- and 92 percent of children with AIDS -- rely on Medicaid to pay their medical bills. That's why I'm so concerned by the proposals pending in Congress to do away with Medicaid and replace it with a block grant program. The majority party in Congress wants to cut federal support for Medicaid by $182 billion over the next seven years. That would force many states -- especially medium-sized states like Indiana -- to cut thousands or even millions of people off the Medicaid program. For a person with AIDS, losing their health insurance is like losing their reason to hope. ~~We won't~~ We cannot let this happen. ~~We must not~~ must not let this happen.

And, states will have to reduce services. And -- pay doctors and other health care providers less.

And the proposed ~~Medicaid~~ block grant will require states to contribute only 40% of what they now pay for Medicaid.

I want to close by telling you the story of a man I met in Vermont. Like many of you, he lived in a beautiful, but isolated community that had very few physicians trained in the kind of care a person with AIDS requires. Every other week, this man drove two hours to a the only clinic in his state that provides care to AIDS patients. But his health was so poor, that halfway there he always had to stop along the road and take a nap. And he did the same thing on his way home later that day.

I asked him if he ever felt like giving up. He looked me in the eye and said he would never give up as long as he had enough strength to make that trip, no matter how many naps he had to take.

There are residents of this community of Portland who do this kind of commute to Indianapolis and other cities for care. And I know that one of them, John Moser, will never give up.

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It's ~~that~~ the kind of strength and ~~that~~ the kind of determination that John has that reminds all of us that we need to fight on. We need to bring better services to small communities like Portland. And we need to fight for men and women who live so bravely day to day and week to week and on and on.

It has been an honor to join you tonight. And it has been a great pleasure to visit this ~~wonderful community~~ American town.

Thank you.

Thanks + congrats Beverly Priest, President + entire Task Force Board

GOOD EVENING:

Thank you for that gracious introduction. I want to thank inviting me to Portland.
John Moser for [redacted]. As I'm sure you all know, John is a remarkable person and a remarkable leader. His lends his voice and his heart and his courage **to the fight to defeat AIDS.** and to helping people affected by the epidemic.

to you has demonstrated
I bring greetings from President Clinton, who [redacted] his **concern[redacted]. In fact, in** for the people affected by AIDS + HIV and his dedication to the fight against it.
December, the President will hold the first White House Conference on HIV and AIDS to highlight the very real needs of the people of this nation, and the efforts of his Administration on their behalf.

I've had a very rewarding [redacted] day here in Indiana. I had the opportunity to talk with a group of [redacted] high school students (seniors + sophmores) to hear [redacted] their thoughts and their concerns, and answer their questions. Young people have a way of cutting right to the heart of the matter and shed [redacted] light on often complicated subjects. Their teacher, Flo Golden, is dedicated to helping her students stay healthy. She has developed an excellent curriculum for her Family Relations class that includes HIV and AIDS awareness. She is probably saving lives right there in her classroom.

I also spent some time with a group of extraordinary [redacted] people who are living with HIV and AIDS. They reminded me of some of the very difficult problems they face in getting the care they need and in living in a [redacted] state like Indiana. They also told me about the love and caring they get from [redacted] some of their friends and families.

[redacted] But the people who came to this small meeting were from other parts of Indiana — like Muncie and Indianapolis. The only Portland resident I met with — with HIV or AIDS/is John Moser, who organized the meeting. Why so few, and why no others from Portland?

Because of discrimination. Because of the stigma still →

associated with this disease. Because of fear. Fear on the part of persons living with HIV and AIDS that if they are discovered, if folks they work with, or live next to, find out, ~~they will be shunned.~~ They will lose a very needed job; They will lose health insurance; They will be evicted; ~~and~~ they will be shunned.

I want to applaud each and every one of you who came to this dinner, and, by ~~your~~ your presence, have demonstrated your support, and compassion, for those living with this insidious disease.

I want to point out something about ~~AIDS~~ HIV ~~that you may know.~~ from the time of infection, until a person has full blown AIDS, takes on average, about 10 years. ~~For many~~ For many it is even longer. During this period they are well and strong and healthy. They work, they play sports they care for their families and they ~~contribute~~ contribute to their communities. ~~HIV is hard to~~ ~~detect. Bodily fluids must be shared.~~

I've had a remarkable day here in Indiana. I had the opportunity to talk with a group of high school students including seniors and sophomores to hear about their thoughts and their concerns, and answer their questions. Young people have a way of cutting right to the heart of the matter and shed light on often complicated subjects.

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~~friends and neighbors — men and women who have known them since they were children and who continue to consider them part of their extended families.~~ But the people who came to this small meeting were from other parts of Indiana — Muncie and Indianapolis. The only Portland resident I met with who is living with HIV or AIDS was John Moser, who organized the meeting. Why so few and why no others from Portland? Because of discrimination. Because of the stigma still

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There is no reason to shun them. They should be offered compassion. A hand. A shoulder. They should not have to hide. // Fear also causes discrimination. Those of you here tonight understand / that

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It's hard to believe that this epidemic has been with us for nearly 15 years. In that time, more than 270,000 Americans have died of AIDS and nearly half a million Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS. Here in Indiana, / the number of cases / has been much smaller / but they are growing. Between 1981 and the middle of this year, more than ~~3,500~~ thirty-five hundred people in Indiana have been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 2,000 people have already died. Last year alone, more than 600 cases were reported in Indiana / and nearly 300 people lost their lives to this ~~insidious~~ tragic disease.

I am also very concerned about the latest trends in the AIDS epidemic. For the last five years, we have been unable to reduce the number of new HIV infections below 40,000 a year. As a result, an estimated one million Americans are living with HIV, [redacted]. That means we will not see a drop in the number of new cases until well into the next decade.

I am even more concerned by the fact that those who are becoming infected are getting younger and younger. At the beginning of the epidemic, HIV usually hit people in their twenties or thirties. Now, ~~fully~~ one-quarter of all new infections occur in people under the age of 20. Teenagers. And half of all new infections occur in people under 25. That means 10,000 American teenagers are becoming infected every year. And many of them are in small communities like Portland.

As I told the high school class this morning, young people have got to learn that they have the power to protect themselves from HIV. Young people who are not having sex should wait as long as possible before they begin. But we can't turn our backs on young people who are having sex. Because we know that 71 percent of high school seniors have already had sex in this country. We have to let young people know that if they are going to have sex, they must use a latex condom each and every time they do. They must. It's a matter of life and death.

We also must reach out to young people who are tempted by drugs. People who use injectible drugs like heroin are at a very high risk for HIV if they share needles.

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Another important source of support for people with AIDS is the Medicaid program. Fully one-half of people living with AIDS in this country -- and 92 percent of children with AIDS -- rely on Medicaid to pay their medical bills. That's why I'm so concerned by the proposals pending in Congress to do away with Medicaid and replace it with a block grant program. The majority party in Congress wants to cut federal support for Medicaid by $182 billion over the next seven years. That would force many states -- especially medium-sized states like Indiana -- to cut thousands or even millions of people off the program. For a person with AIDS, losing their health insurance is like losing their reason to hope. We can't let this happen. We mustn't let this happen.

I want to close by telling you the story of a man I met in Vermont. Like many of you, he lived in a beautiful, but isolated community that had very few physicians trained in the kind of care a person with AIDS requires. Every month, this man drove two hours to a the only clinic in his state that provides care to AIDS patients. But his health was so poor, that halfway there he always had to stop along the road and take a nap. And he did the same thing on his way home later that day.

I asked him if he ever felt like giving up. He looked me in the eye and said he would never give up as long as he had enough strength to make that trip, no matter how many naps he had to take.

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It has been an honor to join you tonight. And it has been a great pleasure to visit this [redacted].

Thank you.

Remarks of

Patricia S. Fleming

National AIDS Policy Director

to

Jay County AIDS Task Force

October 12, 1995

GOOD EVENING:

visit Portland Indiana

Thank you for that gracious introduction. I want to thank John Moser, for his invitation to ~~join you~~. Exec. dir. of the Jay County AIDS Task Force **As I'm sure you all know, John is a remarkable person and a remarkable leader. His lends his voice and his heart and his ~~vision in the fight to defeat AIDS~~.** ~~and his~~ courage to helping people with ~~AIDS~~ HIV and AIDS.

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