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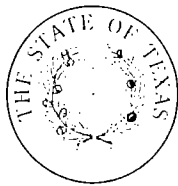
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STATE of TEXAS
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



GARNET F. COLEMAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 147

September 10, 1998

Todd Summers
Deputy Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Summers:

Thank you for meeting with King Hillier and myself regarding the Medicaid 1115 Drug Waiver. I am encouraged by the opportunity we have to serve people with HIV and schizophrenia. As you know, there is great potential for this initiative to improve the quality of life of those individuals struggling to live with these conditions.

As we continue our work on the initiative, we are remaining in contact with the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute as well as the Kaiser Family Foundation. We have scheduled a meeting with Tom Kowalski the week of September 21, 1998. We have also had successful meetings with the Kaiser Family Foundation. At the moment, we are in the process of reviewing actuarial numbers to ensure that they are consistent with the models indicated by HCFA and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

I look forward to continuing our work together on this initiative. Thank you again and please excuse the tardiness of this acknowledgment. If my office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GFC", followed by a horizontal line.

Garnet F. Coleman

GFC/cmfe

Committees: Appropriations • Public Health

P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • (512) 463-0524
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Dolores Street Community Services
San Francisco, California
Paula Van Ness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
Washington, DC
G. Sterling Zinsmeyer
Praxis Housing Initiative, Inc.
New York, New York

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Vos, Barbara Davidson, David Harre, Rusty Bennett,
Sandra Thurman, Todd Summers, Aimee Berenson, Paul Door,
Fred Karness, Beverly Gosnell, ASONA Members

FROM: Randy Russell

RE: National AIDS Housing Coalition

DATE: September 4, 1998

Greetings. Let me apologize in advance for mixing so many audiences together in one memorandum, but we are moving quickly here today. As you are likely aware, HOPWA is facing cuts in the Conference Committee this year. The committee is slated to meet on September 25th. The House version has proposed **flat funding** of \$204 million (after an amendment from the floor by Congressman Hilleary (R-TN) passed by a very narrow margin) and the Senate has supported the President's requested \$225 million. There are some language changes that are also of concern.

I have enclosed, both for your information and for your action (if you are able and choose to do so) samples of two letters sent to the hill. Letter 1 is a funding oriented letter and was sent to the full Conference committee and Letter 2 is a non-funding letter and was sent to key staffers and key congressional members. We also wrote OMB and all 202 Congresspersons voting against the Hilleary amendment that stole HOPWA's increase thanking them for their support.

NAHC has worked very hard to get the word out about these challenges and we are asking you to join us in that effort (for those non-government employees). So, thanks in advance and we hope to have you join us in this effort.

R2.

National AIDS Housing Coalition, Inc. C/O AIDS Task Force of Alabama P.O. Box 55703 Birmingham, AL 35255 205-781-6448
Business 205-788-4643 facsimile Randy@atfa.org



September 4, 1998

The Honorable Richard Shelby
110 Hart Senate Office Buildings
2nd & C Streets NE
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

On behalf of the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC), I write to express concerns of our members who represent thousands of persons living with HIV in America regarding the FY '99 VA/HUD appropriations conference report. NAHC is a coalition of AIDS housing providers, residents, and advocates from across the country. NAHC works to advance the creation, development, management and growth of housing programs for persons living with HIV/AIDS in our nation's communities and represents thousands of those living with HIV. **We need your support to ensure that the FY '99 VA/HUD appropriations conference report provides \$225 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, the amount requested by the President and provided in the Senate bill. We also urge you to provide the Senate level of \$1 billion for the McKinney/Homeless Assistance Grant Program.**

HOPWA:

- provides formula grants to cities and states hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic to create housing programs that effectively and efficiently meet the needs of people in those communities.
- is the only federal housing program that specifically addresses these needs.
- is one of the most flexible and cost-effective HUD programs in existence; decision making is done at the local level and administrative costs are kept at a minimum.

Yet funding for this program has never been sufficient to meet the need. Jurisdictions across the country have long waiting lists of people with HIV/AIDS who need housing assistance and projects that need support to stay open.

It is critically important to provide housing for people living with HIV disease so they can access care and combination drug therapies which have been proven to delay the progression of HIV disease to full-blown AIDS and greatly improve the quality and duration of life. Without housing, people cannot maintain their health, avoid opportunistic infections, or manage complex drug therapy regimens. Far too many individuals with HIV disease are homeless or near homeless; far too many face the devastating dilemma of having to choose whether to pay for their medications and food or pay their rent or mortgage.

Officers

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Los Angeles, California
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NAHC works to advance the creation, development, management, and growth of housing programs for persons living with HIV/AIDS in our communities.

We have made great progress in providing the housing needed to enable people to access therapies and delay the progress of HIV disease. **However, contrary to what some have said, the need for HOPWA has *not* decreased.** While some jurisdictions have seen decreases in the numbers of new AIDS cases in the past year, the number of new HIV infections is ***not*** decreasing, and since more people are living longer, there is less turnover and greater demand for housing assistance. Moreover, at least 7 jurisdictions – Wilmington, DE; Buffalo, NY; Birmingham, AL; Honolulu, HI; and the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah – had *increases* in AIDS cases that put them over the 1500-case threshold qualifying for HOPWA entitlement grants.

Additionally, both the House and the Senate FY '99 appropriations bills included provisions to “grandfather” in approximately 5 states – DE, HI, WI, MN and NV – that lost formula grants because a metropolitan area within the state qualified. “Grandfathering” these states will enable them to continue to receive formula grants based on the number of cases outside the metropolitan area, thereby preventing the loss of housing for people living with HIV/AIDS in the outlying state.

The Senate provided the President’s FY '99 request of \$225 million for HOPWA, an increase of \$21 million over FY '98. In the House, however, a floor amendment offered by Rep. Hilleary (R-TN) took this increase of \$21 million and moved it to a veteran’s long-term nursing care program. While we recognize the importance of meeting the needs of our aging veterans, doing so at the expense of the HOPWA program and people living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom are in fact veterans, is robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Without the \$21 million increase in FY '99 HOPWA funding, it may be impossible to meet the needs of the newly-qualifying jurisdictions and these “grandfathered” states without cutting formula funds to other jurisdictions. It certainly will not begin to meet the true need of this population. We urge you to ensure that the FY '99 VA/HUD appropriations conference report provides the \$225 million for HOPWA that is so desperately needed by our communities across the nation.

We also urge you to provide the Senate level of \$1 billion for the McKinney/Homeless Assistance Grant (HAG) program. While HOPWA is the only federal program that specifically addresses the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS, it is a relatively small program and cannot meet all of the needs. The HAG program plays a vital role in creating a community response to the problem of homeless persons, a growing number of whom are living with HIV/AIDS. Increased HAG funding is essential to help us meet the challenges of housing these families.

Please feel free to contact me at (205) 781-6448 or Aimee Berenson, NAHC’s D.C. consultant, at (202) 797-1446 if you have any questions or concerns or if we can provide you with any additional information. We are looking to you to ensure that the FY '99 VA/HUD appropriations conference report contains the funding levels for HOPWA and the McKinney/HAG programs outlined in this letter. Without this funding:

- we will not be able to provide critically-needed housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.
- we will not be able to continue to make progress in realizing the promise of new drug therapies for improving the quality and duration of life for thousands of people in your community and communities across the nation.
- more people will suffer longer through their HIV disease and/or their homelessness.

On behalf of those people and their families, I thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,



Randall H. Russell, MSW, LGSW
President, Board of Directors



September 4, 1998

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
2nd & C Streets NE
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

On behalf of the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC), I write to express concerns of our members who represent thousands of persons living with HIV in America regarding the FY '99 VA/HUD appropriations conference report. NAHC is a coalition of AIDS housing providers, residents, and advocates from across the country. NAHC works to advance the creation, development, management and growth of housing programs for persons living with HIV/AIDS in our nation's communities and represents thousands of those living with HIV. We now look to you to help us continue our work to the best of our ability. We need your support to ensure that the FY '99 VA/HUD appropriations conference report contains only those non-funding amendments that will ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of HUD programs. **Specifically, we ask that you carefully consider which non-funding amendments relating to the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA) are included in the conference report.**

There are three non-funding amendments to the HOPWA program to be considered in conference. First, both the House and Senate bills included "grandfathering" provisions for states that lose eligibility for a formula grant when a metropolitan area within the state qualifies. Several states have faced this problem in the past; however, only the *House* version will grandfather all 5 of the states so affected. The House version reflects the intention of HUD and the community in proposing this provision, and we urge you to adopt this more inclusive and fairer version.

Second, both the House and Senate bills provided for a 1% set-aside for technical assistance (TA). TA is very important to ensure that HOPWA programs continue to be increased and maintained in an effective and efficient manner. We urge you to adopt the Senate version of this provision, however, because it includes a requirement that HUD report on how this TA money is spent.

Third, we urge you to adopt a House provision regarding environmental reviews (ERs), which streamlines the ER process by allowing the Secretary to accept the state or locality's review, instead of requiring a separate (and burdensome) HUD review. This provision will simply apply current law in effect for other HUD programs to the HOPWA program. (See 42 U.S.C. 3547).

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NAHC works to advance the creation, development, management, and growth of housing programs for persons living with HIV/AIDS in our communities.

Finally, we are greatly concerned about a non-funding amendment which affects funding for all programs in the VA/HUD bill. The House bill includes an amendment by Rep. Riggs (R-CA) which we believe is inappropriate and will have a seriously negative impact on our ability to serve people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco. This amendment serves no purpose other than to express Rep. Rigg's disagreement with the local decision-making of that city's government. We believe it is unconscionable to endanger the health and well being of so many individuals by holding VA/HUD funds hostage to anti-gay sentiments.

Please feel free to contact me at (205) 781-6448 or Aimee Berenson, NAHC's D.C. consultant, at (202)797-1446 if you have any questions or concerns, or if we can provide you with any additional information. We are looking to you to ensure that the FY '99 VA/HUD appropriations conference report contains the HOPWA amendments outlined in this letter. These amendments will enable us to continue to provide critically-needed housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, efficiently and effectively. With these amendments and the \$225 million in FY '99 funding for HOPWA requested by the President and provided by the Senate, we will be able to continue to make progress in realizing the promise of new drug therapies for improving the quality and duration of life for thousands of people in your community and communities across the nation. On behalf of those people and their families, I thank you in advance for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Russell", written in a cursive style.

Randall H. Russell, MSW, LGSW
President, Board of Directors



FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: 9/26/97
TO: Todd Summers
FAX #: 632 1096
FROM: GRAYSON

2 PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET

Todd-

Here's the JTPA language
in the House report on the FY
98 Labor/H Appropriations bill.

Thanks,
Grayson

in the bill an additional \$100,000,000 for an out-of-school youth program for fiscal year 1999 contingent upon the new authorization specifically authorizing such a program. This demonstration program aims to increase the employment rate of out-of-school youth in selected high poverty areas over the long term to a level of 80 percent. Other goals are to increase high school graduation rates, postsecondary school enrollment and wage levels for the youth in these areas.

The Committee urges the Department to explore the possibilities of demonstration projects at career-oriented educational institutions, especially in expanding fields such as culinary arts. Such programs could enable welfare recipients to become trained for meaningful occupations and provide job placement.

The Committee recommends that in planning fiscal year 1998 pilots and demonstrations the Secretary consider testing innovative ways to help employable, low-income individuals who are HIV-positive get and keep unsubsidized jobs with decent wages and fringe benefits.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS

The bill includes \$440,200,000 for community service employment for older Americans. This is the same as the comparable fiscal year 1997 level and the President's budget request. The Committee notes that this program again this year lacks an authorization for appropriations. The program, under title V of the Older Americans Act, provides part-time employment in community service activities for unemployed, low-income persons aged 55 and over. Participants receive the minimum wage. It is forward-funded from July to June, and the fiscal year 1998 appropriation will support the effort from July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999. An estimated 61,500 job slots will be supported by the bill.

As requested by the President, the bill essentially transfers this program to the Department of Health and Human Services by transferring the appropriation. This action is contingent upon enactment of new authorizing legislation.

FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

The bill includes \$349,000,000, the same as the budget request and an increase of \$24,500,000 over the fiscal year 1997 comparable level. The fiscal year 1998 allowance provides funding for four activities; all entitlements.

For trade adjustment assistance benefits, as authorized by the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, the bill includes \$208,000,000. This is the same as the budget request and an increase of \$17,000,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level. These funds will permit payment of benefits, averaging \$217 per week, to 35,700 workers for fiscal year 1998.

The bill provides \$96,700,000 for training, job search and job relocation allowances to workers adversely affected by imports. The funding for this activity is also authorized under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. This is the same as the budget request and an increase of \$11,600,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level. These funds will provide services for an estimated 30,500 workers.

The third activity, benefits, provides for by imports from Mexico authorized by the Trade Act of 1974. The bill includes \$22,300,000 for the budget request year 1997 level. The average of 30 weeks of \$216.

The fourth activity, training, provides for to workers affected by imports from Mexico for this activity. The Trade Act of 1974 bill includes \$22,300,000 for the budget request year 1997 level. These funds for workers.

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

The bill includes \$190,000,000 over the budget request of \$3,332,476,000 authorized by the Social Security Administration. The bill includes \$173,452,000 to be used for the State unemployment insurance and assistance to State unemployment service. The bill also includes \$16,548,000 for career center program.

For Unemployment Insurance, the bill includes \$2,531,458,000. The bill also includes \$206,333,000, which the Administration Act, the bill should the unemployment insurance claims volume would fund the workload over the at a rate of \$28, pro-rata amount unemployed. The bill also includes \$16,548,000 over this latter cost.

The amount \$200,000,000 as bringing State unemployment insurance to convert the trust funds for the unemployment insurance. The bill also includes \$16,548,000 for the Department of Labor to address



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990

Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

September 1, 1998

Todd Summers, Deputy Director
Office of National AIDS policy
736 Jackson Place
Washington D.C., 20503

Dear Todd:

Thank you for your excellent perspective and background information on the HIV Surveillance matter. The upcoming meetings in Washington are October 14 and November 12-----anticipating some decision in December. Tentatively, your briefing would be on the October 14 Agenda in the A.M. for an hour. Michael Zimmerman is standing by for your call to arrange details of travel and any special needs, e.g., audiovisuals, you need.

Background material about the Board is coming to you in the mail. Should you have written materials for the advance Board Reading Packets, 20 copies, 3-hole punched, would be needed here no later than October 2. Please let me know if you have questions about that.

Looking ahead, imagine you would travel with us on October 13, and fly home again following the meeting either Oct 15 or 16? But that detail level can be worked out after your confirmation to us when you return from vacation. We are all looking forward to talking with you, as your points will be critical to the decisionmaking. Thank you again, Todd.

Sincerely.

Sylvia I. Beck
Executive Director

Enc.

See

ISSUES- HIV
Surveillance
Washington State

