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GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS



FRC

FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE:

12/3/98

TO:

Sandy Thurman; Todd Summers

FAX #:

FROM:

Joni Sheridan

4 PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET



COPY

MEMORANDUM

TO: MATTHEW MCCLAIN, CAEAR COALITION

FROM: THE SHERIDAN GROUP

RE: FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL - COPY OF BOOKLET

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 1998

As mentioned in our earlier memorandum to you, the Family Research Council has recently distributed to all Members of the 106th Congress a booklet called "Building the Family, Building the Republic" which outlines the Council's agenda for the incoming Congress.

Attached are the pages from the booklet relating to AIDS funding and the Ryan White CARE Act.

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Att to:
Sandy & Todd
F.Y.I.


Life and Health Issues

A SOUND AIDS POLICY

Policy Goal

A redirection of the war on AIDS through passage of the HIV Partner Protection Act sponsored by Representatives Gary Ackerman of New York and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma along with a comprehensive federal audit of all federal AIDS programs prior to any reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act.

Purpose

A federal audit of AIDS spending and programs would insure that the astronomical increase in such spending is directed only to programs that actually help existing AIDS sufferers, discourage the behaviors that spread HIV, and prevent additional HIV infection. The HIV Partner Protection Act provides specific legislation to tackle the last of those important goals: slowing the spread of the HIV virus which causes AIDS by using partner notification and other standard medical procedures to contain contagious diseases.

Analysis

Federal spending for AIDS-related programs and care has grown dramatically in recent years. The Ryan White Care Act of 1996, for example, authorized more than \$1 billion for AIDS prevention. The Health and Human Services discretionary budget has risen from \$200,000 in 1981 to more than \$3.3 billion in 1998, primarily as a result of AIDS programs. Total federal AIDS spending was nearly \$9 billion in 1998, or about \$9,000 per HIV-infected person.

Like many federal-spending programs, however, the money does not sufficiently filter down to those who need it, as many AIDS sufferers do not receive sufficient assistance. Some AIDS activists and sufferers claim that this is partly due to waste,

Building the Family, Building the Republic

fraud, and abuse. They point to high salaries and perks for the directors of AIDS organizations as well as expensive facilities serving low numbers of people with AIDS. Other experts claim that AIDS programs have failed because no money has been allocated for efforts to curb the voluntary, high-risk behaviors that spread the disease. Instead, AIDS funding has been directed to organizations that promote the very behaviors that enhance the infection.

To ensure that federal money is used most effectively, Congress should not reauthorize the Ryan White Care Act without a full audit of all federal AIDS dollars. On the basis of a careful audit, federal dollars would then be directed away from organizations that celebrate and encourage the addictive behaviors that facilitate HIV transmission and toward counseling centers and psychological efforts that seek to help individuals change their sexual behavior.

Congress could also redirect the war on AIDS by turning attention to medical procedures that have proven effective in other epidemics, especially partner notification. While thirty states have procedures that facilitate infected persons to notify partners, most states do not require notification. As a result, more than forty thousand people continue to be newly infected each year—many unknowingly. The lack of notification enables the disease to spread more quickly while preventing early medical intervention.

In its present form, the HIV Partner Protection Act calls only for partner notification, counseling, and service referrals. Due to the continuing threat posed by the continuing HIV epidemic, especially among new demographic groups, the legislation would be strengthened if the following measures were included:

- National reporting and tracking
- Protection for health care providers and patients
- Mandatory testing for sex offenders and notification for victims
- Disclosure of HIV testing results to insurance applicants
- HIV-status disclosure for adoptive parents
- Optional testing for pregnant women
- Criminalization of intentional HIV transmission

HEARINGS ON THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

Policy Goal

To conduct comprehensive congressional hearings exploring the dramatic advances in medical knowledge since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, highlighting the biological facts of when human life begins, providing a basis of new legislation protecting the child in utero.



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Health and Medicine

Aids poses grave threat to industry (Commentary)

The Nation (Nairobi)
June 10, 1999

Nairobi - The Aids threat at the workplace could not have been more poignantl illustrated than the revelation by Kenya Revenue Authority Commissioner-General John Msafari that the scourge claimed 40 out of KRA 53 employees who died last year.

This, according to Mr. Msafari, meant that HIV/Aids infection was responsible for 80 per cent of the deaths occurring annually among the KRA's 4,000-strong workforce. The KRA chief executive's decision to go public with these scaring figures can only mean that the organisation realises the necessity of a serious awareness campaign.

Of course, many other companies and organisations are concerned about the Aids threat. Even if they do not go public, they will be making an effort to ensure that their employees are well-informed about this new scourge.

Aids has been found to be more prevalent in the most active age group in society. This group, aged between 20 and 50 years, also happens to contribut the bulk of the employees in companies and other organisations. As a result o Aids, many firms are losing staff they have trained at great cost.

In most cases, these are the companies' most experienced workers. The companies are suffering because training replacements is not only costly, it takes plenty of time. As Mr. Msafari conceded, the Aids casualties have had a serious impact on the KRA's operations and resources.

The latest statistics from the Kenya National Aids and Sexually Transmitted Infections Control Programme are a damning revelation for industry. It is estimated that 13 to 14 per cent of all adult Kenyans are infected with HIV. Since a sizeable proportion will definitely develop full blown Aids, the impact o the loss of manpower on the economy will be devastating.

It is imperative that the people are reminded time and again that there is no cure for Aids. Since employees spend a sizeable portion of their time at work, employers must get involved in the promotion of Aids awareness among their staff.

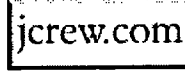
Organisations such are the KRA, which are already doing something to help curb Aids-caused deaths among their staff, deserve praise and support. The Aids menace is very real. It can only be kept at bay through a sustained awareness campaign.

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