

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

December 1, 2006

Dear Senators Frist and Reid;

The time has come for the Senate to pass the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. We have been told that a "final" proposal has been made to shorten the time of the CARE Act reauthorization from 5 years to 3 years. Such a proposal is intended to stabilize the distribution of CARE Act formula funding for three years and help ensure the necessary funding for the delivery of HIV and AIDS services to individuals who are currently not being served. We support this strategy and urge the Senate to adopt the amended reauthorization.

It is time to put aside regional differences and individual jurisdictional concerns, and act on behalf of all Americans who are living with this terrible disease. If Congress fails to act before adjournment, many of our citizens will lose life saving medical care, drug treatment and the support services necessary for them to lead healthy, productive lives.

We the undersigned represent national and local organizations that provide services to, and advocate on behalf of, some of our most vulnerable citizens. We have been engaged in discussions about the CARE Act for well over two years. Many compromises have been made along the way. The bill may not be perfect, but we believe that it can provide stability of care in areas of the country where the AIDS epidemic is the largest and increase accessibility of care in some of the areas that have seen a dramatic rise in new HIV infections. We also look forward to continuing our work with Congress on the key issue of increasing the inadequate funding levels for the treatment and care of those currently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

We therefore support passage of the proposed legislation and urge you to vote on it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Acadiana C.A.R.E.S., Lafayette, LA
The ACCESS Network, Inc., Ridgeland, SC
AID Upstate, Greenville, SC
AIDS Action Coalition, Huntsville, AL

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Boston, MA
AIDS Action Council, Washington DC
AIDS Action Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
AIDS Alabama, Birmingham, AL
AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago, IL
AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Los Angeles, CA
The AIDS Institute, Washington DC
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Chicago, IL
AIDS Outreach of East Alabama, Auburn, AL
AIDS Services Foundation Orange County, Irvine, CA
AIDS Survival Project, Atlanta, GA
AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, Anchorage, AK
Alliance of AIDS Services Carolina, Raleigh, NC
The Ambulatory & Community Health Network of Cook County, Chicago, IL
The American Academy of HIV Medicine, Washington DC
American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, Chicago, IL
American Dental Education Association, Washington DC
American Dietetic Association, Chicago, IL
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, Washington DC
Baltimore Behavioral Health, Baltimore, MD
Birmingham AIDS Outreach, Birmingham, AL
Black Educational AIDS Project Inc, Baltimore, MD
Boulder County AIDS Project, Boulder, CO
Careteam, Inc. Myrtle Beach, SC
Catholic Medical Mission Board's, New York, NY
Catholics for a Free Choice, Washington, DC
The Center in Asbury Park, Asbury Park, New Jersey
Chase Brexton Health Services, Baltimore, MD
Chattanooga CARES, Chattanooga, TN
Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago, IL
Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Chicago, IL
CT AIDS Resource Coalition, Hartford, CT
The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
Denver Mayor's Office of HIV Resources, Denver, CO
Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY
Families' and Children's AIDS Network (FCAN), Chicago, IL
Georgia AIDS Coalition, Snellville, GA
Grady Infectious Disease Program, Atlanta, GA
Health Services Center, Anniston, AL
HIVdent, Atlanta, GA
HIV/AIDS Volunteer Enrichment Network, Inc., Arnold, MD
HIV Medicine Association, Alexandria, VA
Howard Dental Center, Denver, CO
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Chicago, IL
Indigenous Peoples Task Force, Minneapolis, MN

Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities, Birmingham, AL
Legacy Community Health Services, Houston TX
Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Seattle, WA
Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network (L.A.A.N.), New Orleans, LA.
Louisiana Stonewall Democrats, LA
Maine AIDS Alliance, Augusta, ME
Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, Memphis, TN
Mid-South AIDS Fund, Memphis, TN
Minnesota AIDS Project, Minneapolis, MN
Montgomery AIDS Outreach, Montgomery, AL
Mothers' Voices, Miami, FL
Multicultural AIDS Coalition, Inc., Boston, MA
The NAMES Project Foundation, Inc, Atlanta, GA
Nashville CARES, Nashville TN
National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project, New York, NY
National Association of AIDS Education and Training Centers, San Francisco, CA
National Black Nurses Association, Silver Spring, MD
The National Episcopal AIDS Coalition, Brooklyn, NY
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Washington, DC
Nevada AIDS Research & Education Society, Las Vegas, NV
NO/AIDS Task Force, New Orleans, LA
Northern Utah Coalition, Ogden, UT
Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, Department of Public Health, County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Ohio AIDS Coalition, Columbus, OH
Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma City, OK
Palms Residential Care Facility, Los Angeles, CA
Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) National, Washington DC
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative, Chicago, IL
People With AIDS Coalition of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Positive Impact, Atlanta, GA
Sacred Heart Southern Missions HIV/AIDS Ministry, Walls, MS
Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, Atlanta, GA
SAVE Inc., Kansas City, MO
Selma AIDS Information and Referral, Selma, AL
South Alabama CARES, Mobile, AL
South Carolina HIV/AIDS Action, Columbia, SC
South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council, Columbia, SC
Southern AIDS Coalition, Birmingham, AL
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Tucson, AZ
Spokane AIDS Network, Spokane, WA
Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, Atlanta, GA
St. Clair County Health Department, Belleville IL
Tapestry Health, Florence, MA
Tarzana Treatment Centers, Tarzana, CA
Tennessee Association of People With AIDS, TN
Test Positive Aware Network, Chicago, IL

TII CANN - Title II Community AIDS National Network, Washington DC
Treasure Coast Health Council, Riviera Beach, FL
US Helping US, Washington DC
West Alabama AIDS Outreach, Tuscaloosa, AL
Westside Health Center of Cook County, Chicago, IL
Whitman-Walker Clinic, Washington, DC
Winnebago County Health Department, Rockford, IL
Women of Color AIDS Council, Dorchester, MA

cc: Rep. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
Sen. Mike Enzi, Chairman, HELP Committee
Sen. Edward Kennedy, Ranking Member, HELP Committee
Rep. Joe Barton, Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
Rep. John Dingell, Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee
Sen. Hillary Clinton
Sen. Frank Lautenberg
Sen. Robert Menendez
Sen. Charles Schumer