



**ADAP Advocacy Association**

**aaa+**

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## **ADAP Advocacy Association Seeks Action on World AIDS Day; Calls for Emergency Supplemental to Alleviate Growing ADAP Waiting Lists**

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 1, 2009) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today in observance of World AIDS Day called on President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to go beyond issuing fancy proclamations about HIV/AIDS, and provide meaningful leadership to address the plight of people living with HIV infection in the United States. It is unacceptable that on the very day the nation is asked to learn more about HIV/AIDS there are hundreds of people living in America – which is the wealthiest nation in the world – waiting to access life-saving medications from the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) because of insufficient federal funding.

“There are at least 342 reasons why we need to be doing more to fight HIV in the United States,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “That is the number of people living here at home waiting to access their anti-retroviral medications under the Ryan White CARE Act. Rather than issuing another proclamation that talks about the progress being made and what work still needs to be done, how about making a definitive statement by requesting an emergency supplemental to fund the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs and get these people their medications.”

Macsata further stated that only an emergency supplemental of \$268 million approved by Congress and the President would alleviate the short-term problems being experienced nationwide.

AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) are in a state of emergency. In recent months, there has been an exponential growth in ADAP waiting lists. According to the National Alliance for State and Territorial AIDS Directors, wait lists have tripled since the beginning of 2009. \$167 million in state budget cuts to AIDS programs has truly shaken the ADAP program. In 2000, Congress appropriated 72% of the federal ADAP earmark; a number which has fallen to 54% in 2009. This severe drop in the federal commitment to ADAP in addition to state budget crises has largely been the catalyst for the most recent spike in HIV patients placed on wait lists. It is anticipated that at least twelve states will have to implement some form of cost containment measure in the upcoming months, including waiting lists.

ADAP waiting lists have increased over 800% since January 2009. There are presently 342 people living with HIV/AIDS in 9 states on ADAP waiting lists, including Arkansas (6 individuals), Iowa (16 individuals), Kentucky (95 individuals), Montana (26 individuals), Nebraska (75 individuals), South Dakota (8 individuals), Tennessee (95 individuals), Utah (12 individuals) and Wyoming (9 individuals).

For more information about **aaa+** please visit [www.adapadvocacyassociation.org](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org). For inquiries please contact Brandon M. Macsata by phone at (305) 519-4256 or email at [info@adapadvocacyassociation.org](mailto:info@adapadvocacyassociation.org).

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