



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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ADAP Advocacy Association Launches National Awareness Campaign on ADAP Waiting Lists

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 23, 2009) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today announced that it is launching a national public awareness campaign called “**End The Wait**” designed to call attention to growing waiting lists for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) nationwide. Nationwide, ADAP waiting lists have increased to 157 people living with HIV/AIDS.

Despite its vast wealth, America is all too familiar with people waiting in long lines to obtain access to their "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as articulated in its Declaration of Independence. In the 1930s, lines formed to receive food during the Great Depression. In the 1960s, poverty-stricken areas of the South garnered the national conscious as the "Great Society" was launched to alleviate poverty, hunger and homelessness. **Yet in 2009, many Americans are still waiting to receive access to life-saving HIV/AIDS medications.** Sadly enough these are the same medications readily available under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act.

It is a crisis that is all too familiar in the morning newspapers and on the evening news. Several years ago, Americans learned that several Kentuckians and West Virginians living with HIV/AIDS died waiting for access to their care. That same year in South Carolina four Palmetto State residents passed away while lingering for their anti-retroviral medications. This was during a low point in advocacy efforts when ADAP waiting lists ballooned into the thousands! And those are only the deaths that were reported!

And while these dreaded waiting lists were eliminated temporarily last year, they're back now. What's worse is like in years past these waiting lists are growing rapidly -- fueled, in part, by the poor economic environment and budget cuts. **Currently, Nebraska is reporting 70 residents with HIV/AIDS on waiting lists, Kentucky with 50, Montana with 24, Iowa with 7, Wyoming with 3 and South Dakota with one.** More are also possible in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Indiana and Tennessee.

“In response to this growing crisis, the ADAP Advocacy Association is launching its '**End the Wait**' campaign to raise awareness about ADAP waiting lists and the perpetual under-funding of the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs,” summarized **Brandon M. Macsata**, **aaa+** CEO. “Our goal is to raise between \$5,000 - \$10,000 in the next 30 days to finance a targeted public awareness campaign to assure Americans living with HIV/AIDS are guaranteed accessed to qualified care by enhancing ADAPs and improving access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. After all, no one living with HIV/AIDS should have to wait for their life saving medications.”

aaa+ promotes and enhances the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. **aaa+** works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to assure that access to services recognize and afford persons living with HIV/AIDS to enjoy a healthy life.

For more information about **aaa+** please visit www.adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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