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## **ADAP Advocacy Association Releases Inaugural Congressional Scorecard; Majority of Congress Makes the Grade on Supporting ADAPs**

*But Less Partisan Divide is Needed to Ensure ADAPs Success in Treating People Living with HIV/AIDS*

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 29, 2010) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today released its inaugural Congressional Scorecard evaluating Members of Congress on their support for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). Despite passing grades being received by majorities in both chambers, what was revealed by the rankings is more needs to be done to educate lawmakers about the importance of ADAPs in the states and territories.

The Congressional Scorecard ranked the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate on numerous items, including floor votes on appropriations and other bills directly impacting ADAPs, co-sponsors on pending legislation improving ADAPs and whether HIV/AIDS was even mentioned on their official websites. The scorecard issued one of four grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with Honors or Pass with Excellence. Unfortunately, aside from certain votes being skewed along party lines on issues such as health care reform, partisanship weighed heavily on whether passing or failing grades were received by Members.

“HIV infection doesn’t discriminate based on one’s partisan affiliation, therefore it is incumbent on our elected lawmakers in the U.S. Congress to put partisanship aside to better fight HIV/AIDS in America,” argued **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “Our congressional scorecard reveals that there are many leaders in the House and Senate working to improve access to care for people living with HIV/AIDS – which includes supporting strong, viable ADAPs. But it also conveys a strong message that there are a lot of lawmakers who simply don’t have a clue when it comes to HIV/AIDS policy in this country.”

Among the 435 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, 146 received a failing grade (or 34%) and 289 received a passing grade (or 66%); among the passing grades, twenty-seven (34) were issued a “Pass” grade, 123 were issued a “Pass with Honors” grade and 132 were issued a “Pass with Excellence” grade. Only one (1) Republican received a “Pass with Excellence” grade (Joseph Cao of LA-2), while 141 Republicans received a “Fail” grade; additionally, there were some strong ADAP supporters among the Republican Party with twenty-four (24) receiving “Pass” grades and ten (10) receiving “Pass with Honors” grades. Meanwhile, 131 Democrats garnered “Pass with Excellence” grades, 113 Democrats earned “Pass with Honors” grades and ten (10) received “Pass” grades. Five (5) Democrats failed under the rankings.

In the U.S. Senate, eighty-four (84) passing grades were issued to Senators as were sixteen (16) failing grades. All 16 “Fail” grades were given to Republicans. Ninety-five (95%) of the “Pass” grades were given to Republicans, eighty-two (82%) of the “Pass with Honors” were given to Democrats and ninety-four (95%) of the “Pass with Excellence” grades were given to Democrats. Both of the Senate’s independents received the scorecard’s top ranking, “Pass with Excellence.”

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<b>UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</b>				
Grade	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Fail	141	5	0	146
Pass	24	10	0	34
Pass with Honors	10	113	0	123
Pass with Excellence	1	131	0	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>UNITED STATES SENATE</b>				
Grade	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Fail	16	0	0	16
Pass	19	1	0	20
Pass with Honors	5	22	0	27
Pass with Excellence	0	35	2	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>

“As someone who has been advocating on behalf of people living with HIV since the disease first reared its ugly head back in the early 1980s, I cannot stress the importance of having such a resourceful tool at our disposal to advance our education efforts,” said **William Arnold**, **aaa+** board president and Executive Director of the Community Access National Network. “ADAP waiting lists in nine states increased over 1,000% last year and there is no sign of things improving, so we cannot stop until every Member of Congress receives a passing grade.”

The Congressional Scorecard is available online at <http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org/reportcard.html>.

ADAPs provide life-saving medications to people living with HIV/AIDS nationwide who are uninsured or under-insured. This vital federal-state program faced a \$108.9 million shortfall for Fiscal Year 2009, just to keep pace with current demand. That shortfall led to waiting lists nationwide topping 500 – including Arkansas (9 people), Iowa (27 people), Kentucky (128 people), Montana (18 people), Nebraska (30 people), South Dakota (14 people), Tennessee (142 people), Utah (37 people) and Wyoming (13 people) – with the possibility of more in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nebraska, North Dakota and Washington.

To learn more about the Congressional Scorecard, ADAP waiting lists or the ADAP Advocacy Association, 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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