



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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## **ADAP Advocacy Association Calls National AIDS Strategy Good “First Step”; But strategy lacks necessary funding to ensure its effectiveness**

*ADAP waiting lists continue to grow despite plan seeking to “establish a seamless system to immediately link people to continuous and coordinated care when they learn they are infected with HIV”*

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 13, 2010) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today questioned the effectiveness of the newly-released National AIDS Strategy because it lacks the necessary funding to implement it. At the same time the Obama Administration released its NAS, thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS languished on waiting lists in thirteen states trying to access life-saving medications.

“Today, many of the people that we represent are conflicted by a feeling of accomplishment battled with a sense of defeat because at the very moment when they should be celebrating the first-ever ‘National AIDS Strategy’ in the United States, over 2,300 Americans living with HIV/AIDS are waiting to access their life-saving medications,” argued **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association speaking at the [National Press Club](#) today. “In the wealthiest nation in the world – it begs the question: where is the justice? Who is looking out for the thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS trying to access care? When will the relief that comforted the banks, financial institutions, auto-makers and people who purchased homes that they could not afford find its way to the most under-served among our people? What happened to the audacity of hope promised by this President?”

Macsata further said: “I can tell you that speaking to some of the very people on these waiting lists, there is no hope. There is nothing but fear, frustration and quite frankly, anger.”

The ADAP Crisis is real and it is dangerous because:

- Over 6 out of 10 ADAP patients are African-American or Hispanic;
- Three-quarters of ADAP patients live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL);
- Over 86% of the ADAP patients on waiting lists reside in the South; and
- There has been 2011% increase since May 2009 (when there were 99 on waiting lists).

Macsata contends that the strategy itself, and all the hard work put into it by the Obama Administration and HIV/AIDS stakeholders nationwide over the last 15 months is lost in the reality that people are waiting to access the very treatment they need, and deserve.

To learn more about the National AIDS Strategy 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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