



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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## On World AIDS Day, ADAP Advocacy Association Asks: “What is being done to help the 4,109 Americans living with HIV/AIDS on ADAP waiting lists?”

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 1, 2010) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today commemorated World AIDS Day by remembering the nearly 600,000 Americans who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS, supporting the million-plus people who are currently living with HIV/AIDS in the United States and reaffirming its commitment to ensure that every American has access to the appropriate medical care and treatment they deserve. With over 4,000 Americans living with HIV/AIDS on waiting lists for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (“ADAPs”), any proclamation or statement is marred by the mere fact that thousands woke-up on World AIDS Day without access to their life-saving medication in the richest nation on the planet.

“On the very day that the U.S. State Department is patting itself on the back for directly supporting life-saving anti-retroviral treatment for more than 3.2 million men, women and children worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, there are 4,109 people stateside on waiting lists,” argued **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “While we certainly don’t want an ‘us versus them’ debate, it is hard to ignore the cries calling out across nine states...and counting...as U.S. tax dollars fund treatment for people overseas at the very same time people here languish on ADAP waiting lists. When will the President and Congress help these people?”

According to the State Department’s website, 700,000 more people worldwide gained access to their life-saving anti-retroviral medications in 2010 over last year as a direct result of financial support through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (“PEPFAR”). During that same time, 19 states implemented ADAP waiting lists (Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming), several states changed their financial eligibility requirements resulting in nearly 1,000 patients being disenrolled from ADAPs nationwide (that we’re aware of) and many more states are still implementing or considering the implementation of other cost containment measures. The end result of the ongoing ADAP crisis is putting peoples’ lives in danger, hampering effective prevention efforts and driving up the cost of health care over the long haul. The crisis is being fueled, in large part, by insufficient federal funding for ADAP.

Said **William Arnold**, **aaa+** board president and Executive Director of the [Community Access National Network](http://www.communityaccessnationalnetwork.org): “For over a year we have been warning Congress and the President that the federal government’s underfunding of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program would lead to dire consequences. It is time for Congress to act. If a decision cannot be made before legislators leave for the holiday recess, countless more people will be on waiting lists by the time they return. We have been warning the Congress that if this underfunding continues, more people will be placed on the waiting list and fatalities may be an unavoidable result. It is time they heeded our warnings and alleviate the financial burden that is impacting over 4,000 Americans.”

To learn more about the 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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