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## ADAP Advocacy Association Applauds Rep. Alcee Hastings' Leadership on ADAP Crisis; Budget Amendment Moves Additional \$42 Million into ADAP

Congress Approves Hastings' Amendment by Voice Vote

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2011) – The <u>ADAP Advocacy Association</u>, also known as <u>aaa</u>+, today applauded the leadership demonstrated by U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.) on the crisis facing the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and the thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS languishing on waiting lists nationwide in ten states. Yesterday, Rep. Hastings offered an <u>amendment</u> to the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011" (H.R.1).

The Hastings Amendment reads: "The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for 'Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services', by reducing the amount made available for 'Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Disease Control, Research, and Training', by reducing the amount made available for 'Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health', and by increasing the amount made available for 'Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Resources and Services', by \$14,000,000, by \$14,000,000, by an additional \$14,000,000, and by \$42,000,000, respectively."

"On behalf of the six thousand-plus, and counting, people living with HIV/AIDS on ADAP waiting lists, we collectively thank Rep. Alcee Hastings of Florida for offering his amendment, which provides an additional \$42 million to the cash-strapped program," said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. "Florida's ADAP waiting list comprises over half of the nation's total ADAP waiting lists with over three thousand Floridians living with HIV/AIDS waiting to access their life-saving medications, so it is high time that something was done. Rep. Hastings did just that with his budget amendment."

ADAPs provide life-saving medications to people living with HIV/AIDS nationwide who are uninsured or under-insured. This vital federal-state program faces a \$126.0 million shortfall for Fiscal Year 2010 (up from a \$108.9 million shortfall the previous year), just to keep pace with current demand. As of February 10, 2011, there 6,325 people living with HIV/AIDS on ADAP waiting lists – including Arkansas (27 people), Florida (3,204 people), Georgia (956 people), Louisiana (673 people), Montana (19 people), North Carolina (117 people), Ohio (412 people), South Carolina (397 people), Virginia (427 people) and Wyoming (3 people) – with 19 ADAPs, including eight with current waiting lists, reported they are considering implementing new or additional cost-containment measures by the end of ADAP's current fiscal year (March 31, 2011).

<sup>1</sup> National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), The ADAP Watch, February 10, 2011.

## ADAP Advocacy Association | February 18, 2011 | Page 2 of 2

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To learn more about the Hastings ADAP Amendment, 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.

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