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ADAP Advocacy Association Urges Immediate Appointment of the Office of National AIDS Policy Director

“Leadership position in the fight against HIV/AIDS has remained vacant for over one year”

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 1, 2018) – The ADAP Advocacy Association today called on the newly minted Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (“HHS”) to appoint a director at the Office of National AIDS Policy (“ONAP”). Amy Lansky, ONAP's last-serving director, stepped down one year ago, thus leaving the office without its necessary leadership.

“ONAP’s director represents our government’s leading voice in the fight against HIV/AIDS here at home, as well as abroad,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “It is unconscionable that such a vital position remains unfilled over twelve months into this Administration. We’re calling on HHS Secretary Alex Azar to demonstrate leadership to those of us living with this condition.”

In March 2017, **Rep. Barbara Lee** (D-CA) and **Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** (R-FL), co-chairs of Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, urged the Administration to take action to end epidemic. Their letter included a request to maintain ONAP’s role in coordinating government efforts on HIV/AIDS.

Jen Laws, board member and independent policy consultant, summarized, “We not only need an ONAP director, but one who understands the unique needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. It is imperative that the director acknowledges the virus disproportionately impacts communities of color, women, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, and rural communities, especially in the South.”

ONAP has had a director continually in place since the office was formed in 1993.

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association or its stance on the director vacancy at ONAP, please email info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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About the ADAP Advocacy Association: The ADAP Advocacy Association mission is to promote and enhance 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 raise awareness, offer patient educational program, and foster greater community collaboration.