



September 26, 2011

Dear Member of Congress,

The U.S. House of Representatives recently launched the bipartisan Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus (formerly the Congressional Task Force on International HIV/AIDS). The new caucus will be chaired by Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA), Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Trent Franks (R-AZ). The caucus' mission is "to examine methods by which the United States can maintain global leadership in the response to the epidemic."

The ADAP Advocacy Association is asking EVERY House Member to join this very important Caucus.

HIV/AIDS is **NOT** a partisan issue. Since the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) doesn't ask people it is about to infect about their political party affiliation, it is incumbent upon our elected officials to combat HIV using the very same standard. Partisanship needs to be left out of the equation altogether.

In the 112th Congress, the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus will explore five thematic areas:

- Implementation of the US National HIV/AIDS Strategy;
- Financing for Bilateral and Multilateral HIV/AIDS programs;
- The state of HIV/AIDS research;
- The role of Faith-Based Organizations; and
- The 2012 International AIDS Conference to be held in Washington, D.C.

While efforts to initiate the bipartisan Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus should undoubtedly be commended, it shouldn't be overlooked that this is being done at the very same time a record number of people living with HIV/AIDS are languishing on waiting lists under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). So...any Congressional effort to address HIV/AIDS-related issues should first focus on the domestic crisis facing 8,785 ADAP-eligible patients who are being forced to go without their life-saving medications, as well as the hundreds more who have been kicked off their State's ADAP by eligibility restrictions.



Is it rational to discuss research when thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS are being denied access to care and treatment? Does it make any sense for lawmakers elected to the U.S. House of Representatives by people living in the United States to address issues with an international focus without first taking immediate steps to alleviate the ongoing ADAP crisis? Doing so would only lessen credibility surrounding the Caucus' activities. There are people right here, right now who desperately need their elected officials to provide leadership, regardless of political party.

That is why the bipartisan Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus needs to be just that...bipartisan!

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Brandon M. Macsata, CEO
ADAP Advocacy Association
aaa+

PO Box 15275
Washington, DC 20005

info@adapadvocacyassociation.org
www.adapadvocacyassociation.org

Powered by MyGov365

MyGov365 is a non-partisan civic engagement platform to connect citizens, elected officials, organizations and government. Do you use MyGov365? Get started with an elected official account today. <http://www.mygov365.com>