



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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## Tommy G. Thompson Feted for Lifetime Achievement Helping People Living with HIV Infection by the ADAP Advocacy Association

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 12, 2013) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, saluted former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary **Tommy G. Thompson** this week in Washington with the Lifetime Achievement Award for helping people living with HIV/AIDS. The award was presented to Thompson at the **3rd Annual ADAP Leadership Awards Dinner**.

“Back in the 1990s when Thompson was serving as Wisconsin’s Governor, he was especially sensitive to the plight of people living with HIV infection in the state,” said **William E. Arnold**, Executive Director of the Community Access National Network and Board Co-Chair of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “When it looked like he might be named as HHS secretary, it was viewed as a very good sign by many AIDS advocates; in fact, as Secretary he had a small group of seasoned advocates that his personal staff kept in touch with and often sought advice on numerous AIDS issues.”

As *The Wisconsin Light's* banner headline proclaimed on October 23, 1997, "Thompson maintains unblemished support of state AIDS funding," Thompson's work in Wisconsin included proclamations for AIDS Awareness Week, eased the hysteria in the early days of the epidemic, helped healthcare workers with grants to protect them from accidental needle punctures, corrected challenges within the state corrections system, and helped win federal funding parity for Midwestern states that were short-changed in favor of east and west coast interests. On May 7, 1998, Thompson was the first governor in the nation to sign a hospital visitation bill into law so that people could not be denied visitation rights when their partners were hospitalized.

While serving as the Secretary at HHS the ADAP federal appropriation increased from \$571 million in 2001 to \$787 million in 2005. He also oversaw the \$20 million in emergency ADAP funding that was released during the first ADAP waiting list crisis nearly a decade ago. Working alongside Secretary of State Colin Powell, Thompson was instrumental in developing President George W. Bush's PEPFAR initiative and chaired the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, a worldwide effort that focused on the problem around the world, with annual trips to Africa. Among his initiatives during that time was to redirect funding so that it went directly to people in need through NGOs, instead of landing in the hands of corrupt third-world government officials.

To learn more about the 2013 Annual ADAP Leadership Awards, Thompson’s Lifetime Achievement Award, 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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