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On World AIDS Day, ADAP Advocacy Sounds Alarm on Medical Debt Crisis Facing Consumers – including People Living with HIV/AIDS

'Let Communities Lead' offers opportunities for local advocates to influence change by demanding more accountability, transparency, and charity care

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – ADAP Advocacy today commemorated World AIDS Day (WAD) by sounding the alarm on a growing crisis impacting more American consumers – including people living with HIV/AIDS: **medical debt**. [Medical debt touches more families than even student debt](#), with one [estimate](#) showing at least 11 million owing more than \$2,000 in medical debt and at least 3 million owing more than \$10,000. Approximately 75% of adults with medical debt [owe that debt to hospitals](#). Holding providers accountable is one of the basic tenants including in the '[Let Communities Lead](#)' 2023 WAD theme.

Brandon M. Macsata, CEO of ADAP Advocacy, issued this statement:

“People in our community living with HIV aren’t immune from the growing [medical debt crisis](#) facing this nation, which according to a shocking [new report](#) places the blame at the feet of the large hospital systems, and made entirely worse with their [abusive medical billing](#) and [debt collection practices](#). The 35th anniversary of World AIDS Day provides our community an opportunity to tell providers to stop putting their profits ahead of our care. Advocates before me in the 1980s-1990s fought homophobia and fear to pave the way for the advent of anti-retroviral drugs; advocates alongside me in the 2000s and 2010s ensured funding was available for programs like the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs when patients were being denied care on waiting lists; and now rising advocates coming up behind me in the 2020s must demand more accountability and transparency in programs designed to increase access to services and supports, like the 340B Program. Hospitals should not be [cutting off care](#) to patients with medical debt, mega service providers should not be providing housing with [squalid conditions](#) for people at risk for homelessness, and [executive bonuses](#) should never compete with offering needed medical care. The provider ‘smash and grab’ tactics need to stop. Today on World AIDS Day, we sound the alarm calling for more patient-centered care for our people.”

To learn more about ADAP Advocacy, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or World AIDS Day, please email info@adapadvocacy.org.

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About ADAP Advocacy: ADAP Advocacy’s mission is to promote and enhance the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. ADAP Advocacy works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies, and other stakeholders to raise awareness, offer patient educational programs, and foster greater community collaboration.