The ADAP Coalition

November 7, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairmen Rogers, and Ranking Member Dicks:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations we are writing to urge your support for increased funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) while you finalize the FY2012 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

As you are aware, ADAPs provide HIV-related medications to under insured and uninsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. We applaud the Committees’ past support for ADAP; however ADAP waiting lists continue to grow at an astronomical rate. As of October 28, 2011, there were 6,689 people in 12 states waiting for access to lifesaving HIV medications through ADAP. In addition to the waitlists, states have implemented other cost containment measures, such as lowering financial eligibility and reducing drug formularies.

While the need is much greater, we support the President’s budget request of $55 million for Part B ADAP. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee’s bill provided an increase of $15 million and the House Appropriations Chairman’s Mark did not provide any additional funding for the program. The community request to address the ADAP need is $106 million. ADAPs must receive this highest funding level possible in order to address these waitlists and other cost containment measures, while continuing to provide lifesaving medication.

While we understand the gravity of the U.S. fiscal situation, people with HIV and AIDS must be able to continue to receive the vital medications that keep them alive. We respectfully request that you support the President’s request of an increase of $55
million to help solve the existing ADAP crisis. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to provide you with information detailing the need for additional ADAP funding.

Sincerely,

ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS United
CANN - Community Access National Network
Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Janssen Therapeutics
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
Project Inform
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
The American Academy of HIV Medicine
The AIDS Institute
The National Association of People with AIDS
VillageCare