



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson to Headline 3rd Annual ADAP Leadership Awards Dinner Hosted by the ADAP Advocacy Association

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 13, 2013) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today announced that the **Honorable Tommy G. Thompson**, former Governor of Wisconsin and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), will be the featured keynote speaker at its 2013 Annual ADAP Leadership Awards. The awards ceremony will recognize individual, community, government and corporate leaders who are working to improve access to care and treatment under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs.

aaa+ will host its **3rd Annual ADAP Leadership Awards Dinner on Monday, July 8th at 7:00 pm in Washington, DC.** The dinner will be held in conjunction with its 6th Annual Conference, being held at the Westin Washington DC City Center on July 7-9, 2013.

“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.”

According to Arnold, during Thompson’s tenure at HHS the issue of getting CLIA waiver for HIV rapid testing came to a head and several meetings were held by him whereby he made it very clear that he was supportive of the CLIA waiver so rapid testing could be done outside the laboratory system.

Said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association: “Tommy Thompson’s record on ADAP as a public servant is one that is recognized and appreciated by many within our community. 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.”

To learn more about the 2013 Annual ADAP Leadership Awards, 2013 Annual Conference, ADAP waiting lists, or the ADAP Advocacy Association, please contact Brandon M. Macsata by phone at (305) 519-4256 or email at info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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