



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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ADAP Advocacy Association Urges President Obama to Support an Emergency Supplemental for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs; Releases “Open Letter” Video on YouTube

It's Time to 'End The Wait'

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 8, 2010) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today urged President Barack Obama to support an emergency Fiscal Year 2010 supplemental appropriation of \$126 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The critical appeal came in the form of an “Open Letter” video released on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/user/ADAPAdvocacy) – offering an historical perspective to the plight facing hundreds of Americans currently on ADAP waiting lists in thirteen states.

WATCH VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ADAPAdvocacy?feature=mhw5#p/a/u/0/aL2embchB-k>.

ADAPs provide life-saving medications under the Ryan White CARE Act to people living with HIV/AIDS nationwide, who are uninsured or under-insured. This vital federal-state program faces a \$126 million shortfall for Fiscal Year 2010, just to keep pace with current demand. That shortfall is currently fueling the growth of these waiting lists, now nearing 800 Americans – including 16 people in Arkansas, 21 people in Idaho, 59 people in Iowa, 183 people in Kentucky, 17 people in Montana, 270 people in North Carolina, 15 people in South Carolina, 26 people in South Dakota, 86 people in Tennessee, 71 people in Utah and 13 people in Wyoming (as of March 26th, according to the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors).

“The President used his ‘Bully Pulpit’ to pass health care reform – which is something that will not unfold immediately – so we’re asking him to do the same thing now to help hundreds of people living with HIV/AIDS being forced to wait for their life-saving medications,” summarized **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “The fact that there are 777 Americans in the wealthiest nation waiting for the very medications that we know will keep them healthy, productive members in their communities is simply unacceptable. They need his leadership to get Congress to help them now, not with some future reform.”

According to Macsata, **aaa+** applauded President Obama earlier this year when his Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposed a \$20 million increase in ADAP funding. He also noted that an emergency supplemental received bipartisan support in FY2005, when during another recession ADAP waiting lists exploded to more than 1,600 individuals in 11 states.

To learn more about the FY2010 ADAP Emergency Supplemental, 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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