

COMMUNITY LETTER URGING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO HOST FIRST-EVER WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

December 1, 2009

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the estimated 1.1 million people in the U.S. living with HIV/AIDS, we commend your Administration's efforts pressing for tangible health improvements via comprehensive health reform and a National HIV/AIDS Strategy. You have rightly identified HIV-related stigma and discrimination as a persistent social driver obfuscating greater progress to address the epidemic at home and abroad. In addition, your Administration has recognized that, nearly 30 years into the epidemic, a renewed commitment is required to address present-day challenges driving HIV/AIDS in the U.S.

For these reasons we are writing to respectfully request a **White House summit of HIV-positive community leaders from across the United States** meeting with you and members of your Administration to discuss efforts begun to formulate the first-ever National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States.

For the President of the United States to publicly meet with a diversity of HIV-positive leaders would send a powerful message to the nation. Such a summit would serve as a powerful, public denunciation of institutional- and individual-level stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. Beyond its symbolism, the summit would provide the White House a compelling opportunity to gather constituents and federal officials assisting the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) in drafting the Administration's National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) to frame your expectations for this important process.

Those charged with developing the NHAS **must hear directly from you, Mr. President**, that the task of writing the nation's first, unifying and integrative HIV/AIDS plan demands an outcomes-oriented approach that defies the typical institutional biases that too often stifle greater inter-agency and inter-departmental federal collaboration. In addition, the Summit should underscore the urgency to tackle domestic HIV/AIDS as part of a renewed commitment to strengthen U.S. communities, slow healthcare expenditures and invest in the future of our people.

Your Administration has made a historic commitment to change the course of the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic. We urge you to leverage the example of your leadership to change public attitudes toward people living with HIV/AIDS. The White House forum on health reform, held on May 11, 2009, is a model for the type of public gathering we believe is warranted between people living with HIV/AIDS and officials working on the NHAS. Challenging persistent HIV-related stigma in the U.S. is central to efforts to achieve the important goals you have set for the NHAS.

Members of the Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy, together with the undersigned **119 institutions** and **155 individuals**, look forward to working with you on these worthwhile endeavors. On behalf of the Coalition, Naina Khanna and David Ernesto Munar will follow-up with ONAP officials regarding this request.

Thank you for your commitment to implement an effective and compassionate response to HIV/AIDS at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

Organization:

A Brave New Day
A Heroes Journey
African Services Committee
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts
AIDS Alliance
AIDS Community Research Consortium
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Housing Alliance/SF
AIDS Legal Referral Panel
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS Project Ventura County
AIDS Task Force of the Upper Ohio Valley
AIDS Treatment Data Network
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS (a.l.p.h.a.)
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Bailey House
Black And Latino AIDS Coalition
Boulder County AIDS Project
Brandon's House One Inc/Positive Women Network NYC
Bronx AIDS Services
Brothas & Sistas Inc.
Brothers and Sisters in Action (BASIA)
CAEAR Foundation
Center for Women Policy Studies
Center Link: The Community of LGBT Centers
Chicago Women's AIDS Project
Church of the Beatitudes - United Church of Christ
Citywide Minority AIDS Project
Community Care HIV/AIDS Program
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
Community Information Center
Community Regional Medical Center
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services
Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network

City/Town:

Jackson
Hayward
New York
Boston
Jersey Shore
Redwood City
Chicago
San Francisco
San Francisco
Los Angeles
Ventura
Wheeling
New York
Kansas City
Boise
Washington
Akron
New York
New York
Boulder
New York
Bronx
Little Rock
San Bernardino
Washington
Washington
New York
Chicago
Phoenix
Atlanta
Clearlake
New York
Portland
Fresno
Jacksonville
Brooklyn
Santa Rosa

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Family Services of Montgomery Co.	Eagleville	PA
Flowers Heritage Foundation	Oakland	CA
General Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Church	Washington	DC
Gods' Hands & Feet Ministry	Los Angeles	CA
Grace House	Jackson	MS
Grace Outreach Ministry	Long Beach	CA
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.	New York	NY
Harm Reduction Action Center	Denver	CO
Health and Human Service HIV Planning Council	Brooklyn	NY
Healthy University	Kansas City	KS
HIHAC	Peoria	IL
HIV Health Services Planning Council – Sacramento	Sacramento	CA
HIV WORLD CONSULTING	New Orleans	LA
HIV/AIDS Services for African Americans in Alaska	Anchorage	AK
HIVictorious, Inc.	Madison	WI
House of Peace	Brooklyn	UT
Housing Works	Washington	DC
Indiana Minority AIDS Coalition	Indianapolis	IN
The International Network of People Who Use Drugs	Tulsa	OK
International AIDS Empowerment	El Paso	TX
Latino Commission on AIDS	New York	NY
L.I.F.E. WOMEN SUPPORT GROUP	Opelousas	LA
LIVE Consortium	Houston	TX
Maccounsel	San Francisco	CA
Sexual and Reproductive Health Action Group	New York	NY
Metro Teen AIDS	Washington	DC
Michigan Positive Action Coalition (MI-POZ)	Detroit	MI
Mid-South Coalition ON HIV/AIDS	Memphis	TN
Mission Neighborhood Health Center	San Francisco	CA
Mississippi in Action	Jackson	MS
Movable Feast	Baltimore	MD
Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church HIV/AIDS Ministry	Baltimore	MD
MZM Farm, LLP	Glenmora	WA
National Action Network, Inc.	New York	NY
National AIDS Housing Coalition	Washington	DC
National Association of People with AIDS	Silver Spring	MD
National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses	Memphis	TN
National Pediatric AIDS Network	Boulder	CO
National Women and AIDS Collective	New York	NY
New Phoenix Assistance Center	Chicago	IL
New York Harm Reduction Educators, Inc	New York	NY
NYC AIDS Housing Network (NYCAHN)	Brooklyn	NY
Open Door Clinic	Elgin	IL
OUT Advocacy Network, Inc.	Tampa	FL
Partnership Project	Portland	OR
Pilsen Wellness Center	Chicago	IL
Positive Advocacy Caucus (PAC)	Kansas City	MO
Positive East Tennesseans	Knoxville	TN
Positive Resource Center	San Francisco	CA

Positive Women's Network	Grand Rapids	MI
POZ Magazine	Milford	PA
Pozabilities	Long Beach	CA
POZIAM	Levittown	PA
PRIMER MOVIMIENTO PERUANO GLBT	New York	NY
Project Faith	North Charleston	SC
Project Inform	San Francisco	CA
Projecto SOL	Philadelphia	PA
Salva Sida	Berkeley	CA
San Francisco Human Rights Commission	San Francisco	CA
San Mateo County HIV Program Community Board	San Carlos	CA
Seneca County AIDS Council, Inc.	Tiffin	OH
Shanti	San Francisco	CA
SisterLove, Inc.	Atlanta	GA
SOMEONE CARES	Marietta	GA
Sonoma County Commission on AIDS	Santa Rosa	CA
Southwest LA AHEC	Lafayette	LA
Test Positive Aware Network	Chicago	IL
The Friends of AIDS Foundation	Chula Vista	CA
The Grapevine HIV/AIDS Foundation, Inc.	Atlanta	GA
The National Working Positive Coalition	San Francisco	CA
The Well Project	Nelly ford	VA
The Women's Lighthouse Project	Aurora	CO
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	Clay	NY
U.S. Positive Women's Network	Oakland	CA
Urban League of Hampton Roads, Inc	Portsmouth	VA
USF Department of Pediatrics	Tampa	FL
Wayne Beck Consulting	Phoenix	AZ
Wilson Resource Center	Arnolds Park	IA
Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease (WORLD)	Oakland	CA
Women's Initiative to Stop HIV/AIDS-NY of the Legal Action Center	New York	NY
Zephyr L.T.N.P. Foundation, Inc.	Sacramento	CA
Zion Keepers Inc.	Riverdale	GA

Individual Petitioners	City/Town:	State:
Adam Thompson	Charlottesville	VA
Alejandra Cano	Berkeley	CA
Alexis Sanchez	Dallas	TX
Alissa Eugeni	Chicago	IL
Amanda Fisher	Baltimore	MD
Amanda Larsen	Rochester	MN
Amparo Abel-Bey	Manhattan	NY
Andrea Chin	Los Altos	CA
Anthony J. Braswell	Valley Village	CA
Anthony Monken	Belleville	IL
April Snyder	Chicago	IL
Arick Buckles	Chicago	IL
Barbara LaGodna	Morgantown	WV

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Barbara Szelag	Tampa	FL
Beth Luselela	Charlotte	NC
Boyer c. August	Hayward	CA
Brian Tucker	Houston	TX
Candace Y.A. Montague	Ellicott City	MD
Carole V. Collins	Ballston Lake	NY
Catherine Newell	Redwood Citry	CA
Catherine Stebbins	Swansea	IL
Celeste Young	Fremont	CA
Christopher Roebuck	San Francisco	CA
Christy Potts	Galesburg	IL
Cynthia Cannon Poindexter	New York	NY
Cyrille Phipps	Brooklyn	NY
Damon Powell, Ph.D.	Oakland	CA
Danielle Fernandez	Richmond Hill	NY
Darrell Tucci	Los Angeles	CA
Dasheena Franklin	Detroit	MI
David Anthony Saenz	Austin	TX
David Brakebill	Key West	FL
David Case	Memphis	TN
David Haskins	San Diego	CA
Dawn Spearman	Detroit	MI
Denise Cook Probasco	Lancaster	OH
Derek Gilbert	Jacksonville	FL
Djenabou Balde	Shawnee	KS
Dorcas Young	Memphis	TN
Doug Rose	Abingdon	MD
Douglas Scott	San Ramon	CA
Douglas Selfridge	Ventura	CA
Dr. Jerry R Lail Jr	Cherryville	NC
Duane N. Bandel	Minneapolis	MN
Earlene Gladney	Memphis	TN
Ed Frankowski	Atlanta	GA
Edward McDonald	Orange Park	FL
Elizabeth Bowen	Chicago	IL
Ernesto Holguin	Los Angeles	CA
Esperanza Daumont	Oakland	CA
Estella Fisher	Houston	TX
Francisco L Rivera	Tallahassee	FL
Frederick F. Mount	Des Moines	IA
Gary Sadler	Pittsburgh	PA
Georg Ketelhohn	Miami Shores	FL
Gerald Porter	Jenks	OK
Gina Brown	Metairie	LA
Gregory Potts	Chicago	IL
Hasper Leggette	Youngstown	OH
Heather Smith	Niskayuna	NY
Heidi Madsen	Columbus	OH
Homer John Ormsby	Cincinnati	OH

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Ingrid Kloet	Rio Rancho	NM
Janice Mastin-Kamps	Medina	OH
Jennifer Bellamy	Fort Worth	TX
Jennifer Old	Roanoke	VA
Jerad Weiner	Chicago	IL
Jesse Brooks	Oakland	CA
Jessica Hulsen	Oceanside	NY
Jesus Guillen	San Francisco	CA
John Peller	Chicago	IL
John Polete	Brawley	CA
John Rouze	Garden Grove	IA
Joseph Kennedy	Bakersfield	CA
Joseph T. Amodeo	Albany	NY
Joseph Tompkins	New York	NY
Josh Tjaden	New York	NY
Joshua La Force	Houston	TX
Juan C. Sanchez	Los Angeles	CA
Julie A Minardi	San Diego	CA
Karen Bradshaw	Valleho, CA	CA
Kathleen Griffith	Peoria	IL
Keanon Pete	Houston	TX
Kelly Hill	Houston	TX
Kelvin Mcclamb	Seattle	WA
Kenneth Wake	Belleville	IL
Kimberly Smolen	Las Cruces	NM
Kory R. Montoya	Baltimore	MD
LaDonna Russell	Albuquerque	NM
Leland Vann	Ames	IA
Leonard	Buffalo	NY
Linda M. Smith	Milwaukee	WI
Linda R. Williams	Hagerstown	MD
Liza Conyers	Jacksonville	FL
Loren Jones	University Park	PA
Lorie Benning	Oakland	CA
Lorraine Rhoden	Baltimore	MD
Maeve McKean	Roanoke	VA
Manuel Olivo	Washington	DC
Marcia Nickels	Houston	TX
Mark B. A. Cappetta	Oak Park	IL
Mary Williams	San Mateo	CA
Meaghan Hayes	Salt Lake City	UT
Melissa Garcia	Pewaukee	WI
Michael Scarce	San Diego	CA
Mike Weyand	San Francisco	CA
Mitch DeBoer	New York	NY
Morris Brown Jackson	Indianapolis	IN
Mrs. Ida B. Powell	Simi Valley	CA
Navina Khanna	Lynchburg	VA
Nick Matterese	Oakland	CA

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Nick Rhoades	Brooklyn	NY
Norma E. Goodman	Plainfield	IA
Olivia Ford	Brooklyn	NY
Onita Omorodion	Brooklyn	NY
Pat Deal	Kansas City	MO
Patricia Steen	Wichita Falls	TX
Paul Martin	Kansas City	MO
Paul Saltz	La Crosse	WI
Penny DeNoble	Columbus	OH
Perla Roberts	Denver	CO
Phillip Ramsey	Matteson	IL
Rafiki Franklin	Panama City	FL
Randy Brandon	Oakland	CA
Ravi Khanna	Hallandale Beach	FL
Ray Cook	Kirkland	WA
Rebecca Maier	Berkeley	CA
Reggie Dunbar II	DeKalb	IL
Reginald N. Jackson, Jr.	Atlanta	GA
Rev. Richard H. Taylor	Chicago	IL
Richard Maritt	New York	NY
Richard Weber	Smyrna	GA
Rob Ferguson	Nashville	TN
Robert	Ann Arbor	MI
Roberta Tabb	Chicago	IL
Romina Casasola	East ST Louis	IL
Ronald D. Buckman	Kew Gardens	NY
Ronald Gadaire	Rochester	NY
Sandra Damato	Houston	TX
Shannon Cornelius	Baltimore	MD
Shawne Goodman	Aurora	CO
Sheila Grigdesby	AMES	IA
Shirley Boughton	Indianapolis	IN
Stacia Scherich	Freeport	FL
Steve Garrett	San Francisco	CA
Steven G Digby	Rio Rancho	NM
Terrell J. Moody	Tiffin	OH
Terri Wilder	Alma	GA
Thomas W. Hawkins Jr.	New York	NY
Tiffany Frazier	Edgewood	MD
Vanessa B.	Durham	NC
Will Wilson	New York	NY
William	Chicago	IL
William Meezan	Minneapolis	MN
William Vayens	Columbus	OH

Cc: Mr. Jeff Crowley, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy