

The Clinton/Gore Administration



A Record of Progress on HIV and AIDS

June 1999

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THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION: A RECORD OF PROGRESS ON HIV AND AIDS

“How can we be one America if a ravaging disease like this is being brought under control in part of our population, but not in another?”

-- President Clinton, November 2, 1998

“We are united in the fight for research, care, and prevention. And we will not stop until all who need it have access to the treatment they need. We will not rest until we have a vaccine -- and a cure.”

-- Vice President Gore, September 19, 1998

Providing National Leadership. President Clinton has worked hard to invigorate the response to HIV and AIDS, providing new national leadership, substantially greater resources and a closer working relationship with affected communities. During his administration, funding for AIDS research has increased by over 57 percent at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), while funding for HIV prevention has increased 36 percent. Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act has increased by over 260 percent.

Although much work remains to find a cure, progress has been made. In 1996, for the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined. And between 1996 and 1997, HIV/AIDS mortality declined 47 percent, falling from the leading cause of death among 25-44 year olds in 1995 to the fifth leading cause of death in that age group. There has been a decline in the number of AIDS cases overall and a sharp decline in new AIDS cases in infants and children.

Leading the Global Fight Against HIV/AIDS. On December 1, 1998 (World AIDS Day), the President announced a new \$10 million initiative at USAID to address the growing crisis of children orphaned by AIDS. The United States has invested over \$1 billion in international AIDS relief since the start of the epidemic and funds 25% of UNAIDS. NIH represents the largest single public investment in AIDS research in the world. More than \$62 million of NIH's international AIDS research in FY1999 is being conducted overseas in partnership with the global scientific community.

Historic \$156 Million Effort to Address HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color. While racial and ethnic groups account only for about 25 percent of the U.S. population, they account for more than 50 percent of all AIDS cases.

October 28, 1998, President Clinton declared HIV/AIDS to be a severe and ongoing health crisis in racial and ethnic minority communities and announced a comprehensive new initiative that invests an unprecedented \$156 million to improve the nation's effectiveness in preventing and treating HIV/AIDS in the African-American, Hispanic, and other minority communities. This funding is spread across three broad categories: technical assistance and infrastructure support; increasing access to prevention and care, and building stronger linkages to address the needs of specific populations.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room

protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Protecting Medicaid and Social Security Coverage. The President fought for and won the preservation of the Medicaid guarantee of coverage which serves more than 50 percent of people living with AIDS -- and 92 percent of children with AIDS -- who rely on Medicaid for health coverage. He also revised eligibility rules for Social Security Disability Insurance to increase the number of HIV+ persons who qualify for benefits.

Focusing National Efforts on an AIDS Vaccine. On May 18, 1997, the President challenged the nation to develop an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. He announced a number of initiatives to help fulfill this goal, including: dedicating an AIDS vaccine research center at the National Institutes of Health and encouraging domestic and international collaboration among governments, medical communities and service organizations. On June 9, 1999, President Clinton dedicated the new Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health and announced that the primary work of this new Center will be HIV vaccine research.

Dramatically Increasing Overall AIDS Funding. The Clinton Administration has responded aggressively to the significant threat posed by HIV/AIDS with increased attention to research, prevention and treatment. President Clinton has increased overall funding for major HIV/AIDS programs by 94 percent (within HHS), funding for the Ryan White CARE programs has increased 260 percent and support for AIDS-related research has increased by over 57 percent.

Increasing AIDS Drug Assistance and Accelerating AIDS Drug Approvals. Funding for AIDS drug assistance has increased from \$52 million per year to \$461 million per year during the Clinton Administration. This program provides new life-prolonging drugs to people with HIV and AIDS. In addition, President Clinton convened the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, and removed dozens of bureaucratic obstacles to the effective and decent treatment of people with AIDS. Since 1993, the Food and Drug Administration has approved dozens of new AIDS drugs for AIDS-related conditions and new diagnostic tests.

Making Research a Priority. In one of his first acts in office, President Clinton signed the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, placing full responsibility for planning, budgeting and evaluation of the AIDS research program at NIH in the Office of AIDS Research. The Administration has increased NIH AIDS research funds by 67% in five years.

Focusing on Prevention: Supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Administration has increased funds for HIV prevention at the CDC by 34% in five years. Under the leadership of the Clinton Administration, the CDC reorganized its AIDS prevention efforts to foster greater overall coordination and enhance efforts to reduce sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis.

Educating Young People about the Dangers of AIDS. The Clinton Administration launched the Prevention Marketing Initiative, focusing on the risk to young adults (18-25) with frank public service announcements recommending the correct and consistent use of latex condoms for those who are sexually active.

Requiring the Federal Workforce to Understand AIDS. The Administration issued a directive on September 30, 1993 that requires every Federal employee to receive comprehensive education on HIV/AIDS.

Established a White House AIDS Office and Created a Presidential Advisory Council. President Clinton created a White House Office of National AIDS Policy to bring greater direction and visibility to the war on AIDS. Sandy Thurman, the current director of the office, has broad experience in both domestic and international AIDS services. At the same time, the Administration has sharpened the focus of its AIDS programs. The President also created the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS to provide him and his Administration with expert outside advice on the ways in which the Federal government should respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Dr. R. Scott Hitt, a California physician specializing in HIV/AIDS care, chairs the panel.

Convened the First Ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS. On December 6, 1995, the President convened the first White House Conference on HIV and AIDS in the history of the epidemic, bringing together more than 300 experts, activists and citizens from across the country for a discussion of key issues.

SELECTED HIV/AIDS INVESTMENTS	FY99	Increase from FY98	Increase from FY93
Ryan White CARE Act <i>AIDS Drug Assistance</i>	\$1.4 billion <i>\$461 million</i>	23% <i>61%</i>	266% <i>787%*</i>
HIV Prevention (CDC)	\$657 million	5%	32%
AIDS Research (NIH) <i>Vaccine Research</i>	\$1.8 billion <i>\$200 million</i>	12% <i>33%</i>	67% <i>145%</i>
Housing (HUD)	\$225 million	10%	125%
International (USAID)	\$135 million**	10%	15%

*since FY96, when separate program established

**includes \$10 million emergency funding for AIDS orphan initiative

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REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON WORLD AIDS DAY 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Amy, for your magnificent remarks and the power of your example. Thank you, Cynthia, for coming to this big, scary crowd. (Laughter.) She was nervous. I said, well, look at the bright side -- at least you got out of school for a day. (Laughter.)

I thank the other children who are here with us. And I want to thank all the members of our administration who have helped so much in this cause -- Secretary Albright; Brian Atwood; Dr. Satcher; our AIDS Policy Director, Sandy Thurman; members of the Council on HIV and AIDS. We're glad to have Nafis Sadik here, the Director of the U.N. Population Fund. Richard Socarides from the White House, I thank you and all the other members of the administration. And I, too, want to join in expressing my appreciation to the members of Congress who Brian mentioned for their support for AIDS funding.

But I especially want to thank Amy for being here and reminding us of what this is all about. When she was speaking my mind wandered back to an incident that occurred when I was running for President in 1992. Some of you have heard me say this before, but I was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a place largely known for its enormous percentage of Czech and Slovak citizens. And there was in the crowd at this rally where I was speaking a woman who was either Czech or Slovak, probably, holding an African American baby. And I said, whose baby is this? She said, this is my baby. And I said, where is this baby from? She said, Florida, I got her from Florida. (Laughter.)

And it was October in Cedar Rapids and she should have been in Florida, probably. (Laughter.) She said, this baby was born with AIDS and abandoned and no one would take this baby. This woman had her marriage had dissolved, she was raising her own children alone. But because she heard about children like this wonderful little girl, she adopted this baby.

And every year since, about once a year, I see this young child. I've watched her grow up now and I'm happy to tell you that six years later she's still alive and doing pretty well. She comes to the NIH for regular check-ups and she comes by the White House to see her friend. And every

time I see Jimiya I am reminded of what this whole thing is about.

And I think I should tell you one other thing. When Amy was standing up here with me and I was telling her what a fine job she did, she said, I'm so glad that Cynthia could be here, and that I could say Carla's name in your presence.

This is, I think, very important for people who have not been touched in some personal way -- who have never been at the bedside of a dying friend, who have never looked into the eyes of a child orphaned by AIDS or infected with HIV -- to understand. And I believe, always, that if somehow we could reach to the heart of people, we would always do better in dealing with problems, for our mind always conjures a million excuses in dealing with any great difficulty.

Let me begin, even in this traumatic moment, to say we have a lot to celebrate on this AIDS Day. We celebrate the example of Amy and Cynthia. Just think, a decade ago people really believed that AIDS was unstoppable; the diagnosis was a virtual death sentence; there was an enormous amount of ignorance and prejudice and fear about HIV transmission. Most of us knew people who couldn't get into apartment houses or were being kicked out or otherwise -- their children couldn't be in school because of fears that people had about it.

Every day, for people who had HIV or AIDS and their families -- every day was a struggle a decade ago. A struggle for basic information, for treatment, for funding, and all too often, for simple compassion.

For six years, thanks to many of you, we have worked hard to change this picture -- and so have tens of thousands of other people across our country and across the globe. We've worked hard to draw attention to AIDS and to better direct our resources by creating the Office of National AIDS Policy and the President's Council on HIV and AIDS. We had the first ever White House conference on AIDS. We helped to ensure that people with HIV and AIDS cannot be denied health benefits for preexisting conditions. We accelerated the approval of more than a dozen new AIDS drugs, helping hundreds of thousands of people with AIDS to live longer and more productive lives.

Working together with members of both parties in the Congress, we increased our investment in AIDS research to an historic \$1.8 billion. This year we secured \$262 million in new funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, providing medical treatment, medication, even transportation to families coping with AIDS. This October we declared that AIDS had reached crisis proportions in the African American, Hispanic American and other minority communities, and fought for \$156 million initiative to address that. Today the Vice President is announcing \$200 million in new grants for communities around the country to provide housing for people with AIDS.

The results of these and other efforts have been remarkable. For the first time since the epidemic began, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS has begun to decline. For the first time, deaths due to AIDS in the United States have declined. For the first time, therefore, there is hope that we can actually defeat AIDS.

But all around us there is, as we have heard from all the previous speakers, fresh evidence that the epidemic is far from over, our work is far from finished, that there are rising numbers of AIDS in countries like Zimbabwe, where 11 men, women, and children become infected every minute of every day. There are still too many children orphaned by AIDS, tens of thousands here in America, tens of millions in developing nations around the world.

And when so many people are suffering, and with HIV transmission disproportionately high, still, among our own young people here in America, it's all right to celebrate our progress, but we cannot rest until we have actually put a stop to AIDS. I believe we can do it -- by developing a vaccine, by increasing our investment in other forms of research, by improving our care for those who are infected and our support for their families.

Last year at Morgan State University, I declared that we should redouble our efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine within a decade. Today I am pleased to announce a \$200 million investment in cutting edge research at the NIH to develop a vaccine. That's a 33 percent increase over last year. With this historic investment, we are one step closer to putting an end to the epidemic for all people.

I'm also pleased to say that there will be more than \$160 million for other new research critical to fighting AIDS around the world, from new strategies to prevent and treat AIDS in children, to new clinical trials to reduce transmission.

And as hard as we are working to stop the spread of AIDS we cannot forget our profound obligation for the heartbreaking youngest victims of the disease -- the orphaned children left in its wake. Around the world, as we have heard, millions of children have lost their parents. Their number is expected to rise to 40 million over the next 10 to 15 years. Some of them are free of AIDS, others are not. But sick or well, too many are left without parents to protect them, to teach them right from wrong, to guide them through life and make them believe that they can live their lives to the fullest.

We cannot restore to them all they have lost, but we can give them a future -- a foster family, enough food to eat, medical care, a chance to make the most of their lives by helping them to stay in school. Today, through Mr. Atwood's agency, we are committing another \$10 million in emergency relief that will, though seemingly a small amount, actually make a huge difference for many thousands of children in need around the world.

I'm also directing Sandy Thurman to lead a fact-finding mission to Africa, where 90 percent of the AIDS orphans live. Following the mission she will report back to me with recommendations on what more we can do to help these children and give them something not only to live for, but to hope for.

Eleven years ago, on the first World AIDS Day, we vowed to put an end to the AIDS epidemic. Eleven years from now, I hope we can say that the steps we took today made that end come about. If it happens, it will be in no small measure because of people like you in this room, by your unfailing, passionate devotion to this cause -- a cause we see most clearly expressed in the two people sitting right behind me.

Thank you all, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

1:26 P.M. EST

<p style="text-align:center">REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON HIV CRISIS IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES</p>
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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 28, 1998

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON HIV CRISIS IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES**

Old Executive Office Building

5:16 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you and welcome, every one of you. I'd like to begin by welcoming the Mayor of Baltimore, Kurt Schmoke, and the Mayor of East St. Louis, Gordon Bush. I'd like to thank the members of Congress here behind me who are so responsible for the purpose for which we are called today. (Applause.)

I want to acknowledge Congresswoman Donna Christian Green, Congressman Elijah Cummings, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congressman Donald Payne. I will say more about Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Representative Lou Stokes in a moment. (Laughter.) But I want to thank them and all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including all the House members and Senator Carol Moseley Braun, for what they did.

And then I would like to offer a special word of appreciation to senator Arlen Specter and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, who helped us so much to get this done. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

I want to thank everyone in our administration who has worked so hard on the issue of HIV and AIDS, beginning with the Vice President who couldn't be here today, but who has worked very hard on all these issues; and Secretary Shalala; our wonderful Surgeon General, David Satcher; the Director of our AIDS Policy Office, Sandy Thurman, who has literally spent months sounding the alarm about the growing crisis in communities of color, and working to help achieve these dramatic funding increases. There is no stronger or more effective advocate. And I think we ought to thank Sandy Thurman for what she's done. (Applause.)

Finally, I want to thank Denise Stokes for being here. As you will hear in a few moments, she has been living with HIV for 15 years, and has been giving so much of herself to educate others. If we are to stop this cruel disease we'll have to have brave people like Denise to reach out with candor and compassion to those at risk. I really admire her very much. And you'll hear from her in a moment, but I think we ought to give her a hand for showing up today. (Applause.)

We have good reason to feel encouraged that so many HIV-positive men and women are living longer and healthier lives. We should be proud that we've helped to speed the development of lifesaving therapies and nearly tripled to support those with HIV and AIDS.

But the AIDS epidemic is far from over in any community in our country. Today, we're here to send out a word loud and clear:

AIDS is a particularly severe and ongoing crisis in the African-American and Hispanic communities and in other communities of color. African Americans represent only 13 percent of our population, but account for almost half the new AIDS cases reported last year. Hispanics represent 10 percent of our population; they account for more than 20 percent of the new AIDS cases. And AIDS is becoming a critical concern in some Native American and Asian American communities, as well.

Like other epidemics before it, AIDS is now hitting hardest in areas where knowledge about the disease is scarce and poverty is high. In other words, as so often happens, it is picking on the most vulnerable among us.

The fact is HIV infection is one of the most deadly health disparities between African Americans, Hispanics, and white Americans. And just as we have committed to help build one America by ending the racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality and cancer and other diseases, we must use all our power to end the growing disparities in HIV and AIDS.

The AIDS crisis in our communities of color is a national one, and that is why we are greatly increasing our national response. Today I am proud to announce we are launching an unprecedented \$156 million initiative to stem the AIDS crisis in minority communities. (Applause.)

It is one of the greatest victories in the balanced budget law I just signed. It never could have happened without the passionate and compassionate leadership of Maxine Waters, Lou Stokes, and the rest of the Congressional Black Caucus -- (applause) -- or the support of senator Specter and Congresswoman Pelosi and so many others. (Applause.)

Now, this initiative will allow thousands of cities, churches, schools, and grass-roots organizations to expand prevention efforts and target them to the specific needs of specific minority communities such as young men, students, pregnant mothers. It will allow minority communities to expand treatment for substance abuse.

It will increase access to protease inhibitors and other new therapies, because lifesaving therapies cannot be a luxury reserved only for the rich.(Applause.) It will increase access to skilled doctors and other health care providers. And finally, it will help us to assemble teams of public health experts from the Centers for Disease Control and other federal agencies to visit individual communities and provide whatever technical assistance those communities need. (Applause.)

This new initiative will build on the other historic funding increases in HIV/AIDS funding we won in the new balanced budget, which Secretary Shalala will talk about in greater detail in a moment. I'm also pleased that it will build on our race and health initiative. Congress has taken a first step to fund this initiative, but we must do more. We are not one America when some of our communities lag so far behind in health.

Of course, this room looks nothing like a house of worship except for a few collars I see. (Laughter.) But I'd like to end my remarks today with what I think is quite an appropriate passage from the First letter of Paul to the Corinthians. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts. And though all its parts are many, they form one body. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

So it is with the body of Americans, and a nation that strives to be one America. Every one of our communities is inextricably linked, in suffering and rejoicing, in sickness and in health. And that is why we must work together in every community to stop this cruel disease. Black or white, gay or straight, rich or poor, you name it, we have to stop it.

Now I'd like to present America's Surgeon General, our nation's family doctor, whose deep commitment to advancing our country's health is embodied in the 200-year-old guiding principle of our public health service that you best protect the health of the entire nation when you reach out to the most vulnerable people.

Dr. David Satcher. (Applause.)

END 5:30 P.M. EST

PRESS RELEASE ON 1998 WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY BY UNVEILING NEW STEPS TO ADDRESS THE GROWING CRISIS OF CHILDREN ORPHANED BY AIDS

Today, President Clinton will join Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Brian Atwood, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to commemorate World AIDS Day by launching a series of new initiatives to address the growing crisis of HIV/AIDS around the world, particularly the millions of children orphaned by AIDS. The President will unveil historic increases in funding for research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) designed to develop an effective AIDS vaccine and prevention strategies to help address the problem of HIV/AIDS throughout the world. He will announce new emergency funding from USAID to support international AIDS orphan programs. In addition, he will direct his AIDS policy advisor, Sandra Thurman, to lead a delegation to Sub-Saharan Africa to assess the growing problem of AIDS orphans and recommend new strategies for responding to the crisis.

USAID projects that up to 40 million children will be orphaned by HIV/AIDS by the year 2010, over 90 percent of whom live in developing countries with few resources to provide for their care and support. Over 33 million people around the world are now living with HIV or AIDS, with another 5.8 million becoming infected every year. As with so many epidemics, children and young people bear much of the terrible burden of AIDS. In the United States, as many as 80,000 children already have been orphaned by AIDS.

Increases in funding by the National Institutes of Health for research to prevent and treat HIV around the world. The National Institutes of Health will undertake the largest single public investment in AIDS research in the world by supporting a comprehensive program of basic, clinical, and behavioral research on HIV infection and its related illnesses. This program will include:

- \$200 million -- a 33 percent increase from last year's funding -- for research on AIDS vaccines to prevent transmission around the world. The development of a safe and effective AIDS vaccine is critical to stemming the growing problem of HIV/AIDS and AIDS orphans internationally. The President will announce that NIH will dedicate \$200 million to vaccine research in Fiscal Year (FY) 1999, a \$47 million or 33 percent increase over FY 1998 and an 100 percent increase over FY 1995. This investment is critical in meeting the President's challenge to develop an effective AIDS vaccine.

- \$164 million for other research critical to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic around the world. The President also will announce that NIH will invest \$164 million in FY1999, a \$38 million increase over last year, in critical research projects aimed at reducing the number of AIDS orphans by preventing and treating HIV/AIDS internationally. These projects will include: a new prevention trials network to reduce adult and perinatal transmission of HIV/AIDS; new strategies to prevent and treat HIV infection in children; funding to train more foreign scientists to collaborate on this epidemic; research on the prevention and treatment of the opportunistic infections, such as tuberculosis, that commonly kill people with HIV/AIDS; and research on topical microbicides and other female-controlled barrier methods of HIV prevention.
- \$10 million in USAID emergency relief funding to provide support for AIDS orphans. USAID will make available \$10 million in emergency funding to support community-based efforts for orphans in the countries most affected by this problem. These efforts will include training and support for foster families, initiatives to keep children in school, vocational training, and nutritional enhancements. In addition, USAID will take steps to help prevent the spread of HIV from mothers to children and to improve medical care for children already infected with HIV.
- AIDS Policy Advisor Sandra Thurman to lead fact-finding delegation to raise awareness and make recommendations to address growing problem of AIDS orphans. President Clinton will ask Sandra Thurman, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, to lead a fact-finding delegation early next year to Sub-Saharan Africa, where 90 percent of AIDS orphans reside. The delegation will include representatives from key Congressional offices. Its goal will be to raise awareness of this emerging problem and to develop recommendations for action.
- New steps to address the continued needs of those living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. While the problem of HIV/AIDS is particularly acute internationally, the President will underscore the impact of HIV/AIDS on families in this country as well. The President will highlight an announcement today by Vice President Gore of more than \$200 million in funds this year for the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program to prevent individuals affected by HIV/AIDS and their families from becoming homeless. The Vice President will announce these grants at a meeting with local community leaders who provide housing and other support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and with several individuals and families who have benefited from these services.
- A solid record of achievement in HIV/AIDS. Today's announcements build on a deep and ongoing commitment by the Clinton Administration to respond to the AIDS crisis both in the United States and across the world. The Administration has fought for other critical investments in HIV/AIDS. This year alone, the President:

Declared HIV/AIDS in racial and ethnic minority communities to be a severe and ongoing health care crisis and unveiled a new \$156 million initiative to address this problem. This initiative included crisis response teams, enhanced prevention

efforts, and assistance in accessing state-of-the-art therapies.

Worked with Congress to secure historic increases in a wide range of effective HIV/AIDS programs. Increases this year alone include: a \$262 million increase in the Ryan White CARE Act; a 12 percent increase in AIDS research funding at the NIH, totaling nearly \$1.8 billion; a \$32 million increase for HIV prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and a \$21 million increase in the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program at HUD.

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**PRESS RELEASE ON 1998 WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT
VICE PRESIDENT GORE**

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

**VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES \$220 MILLION
TO PROVIDE HOUSING, OTHER CRITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES
FOR OVER 65,000 PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS**

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore commemorated World AIDS Day today by announcing that the federal government will provide \$220 million in grants for housing and support services for over 65,000 low-income people with HIV/AIDS and members of their households.

The Vice President announced the new funds, which the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) will distribute under its Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, at a meeting with people who receive and provide these critical housing and support services in Washington DC.

“For too many Americans living with AIDS, poverty is nearly as much of a threat as the disease itself,” Vice President Gore said. “Without our help, many would be forced to live in unfit housing or become homeless. These grants will mean that people fighting AIDS won't have to also fight to keep a roof over their heads.”

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo added, “We all know about the terrible toll of illness and death caused by the AIDS virus. On top of this, AIDS often destroys the financial health of those with the disease as well, hitting them with huge medical bills and leaving them too sick to work.”

Today, the Vice President:

Unveiled new HOPWA grants that provide critical support to communities in need. Studies show that people with HIV/AIDS are at increased risk for homelessness and have more problems obtaining access to affordable housing. This \$220 million in HOPWA funding, a 10 percent increase over last year, provides critical housing and other support services that:

- help people with HIV/AIDS remain in their homes by providing rental assistance and supportive services such as meals, transportation, and counseling; and

- provide housing to people with HIV/AIDS and their families facing homelessness. By providing housing and other critical support services, this program helps keep families intact, and assures that individuals with HIV/AIDS have the support they need. Most people that HOPWA serves have incomes of under \$1,000 a month.

Of the \$220 million, \$200 million will go to states, cities, and communities to develop effective programs. The remaining \$20 million will go to programs nationwide that have developed particularly effective and innovative approaches to providing housing and other necessary support services for people with HIV/AIDS. For example, an innovative program in Savannah, GA enables people with HIV/AIDS to receive home-based care, and one in Illinois provides innovative services, including effective mental health services and daily living services.

Highlighted Clinton/Gore Administration's ongoing progress in fighting HIV/AIDS.

The Vice President underscored other Administration efforts to improve prevention, treatment, and research for people with HIV/AIDS. He noted that the President is unveiling historic new steps today to help the up to 40 million children who will be orphaned by HIV/AIDS by 2010, including new emergency funding from USAID to support international, community-based AIDS orphan programs and historic new increases in AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) dedicated to help address the global problem of HIV/AIDS.

These steps build on the historic progress to combat HIV/AIDS for which the Administration fought in this year's balanced budget, including: a new \$156 million initiative to address the severe, ongoing health care crisis of HIV/AIDS in racial and ethnic minorities, including crisis response teams and enhanced prevention efforts across the nation; a \$262 million increase in the Ryan White CARE Act; a 12 percent increase in AIDS research funding at the NIH, a \$32 million increase HIV prevention programs at the CDC; and a \$21 million increase in HOPWA.

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1998 WORLD AIDS DAY PROCLAMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

WORLD AIDS DAY, 1998 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

On World AIDS Day, we are heartened by the knowledge that our unprecedented investments in AIDS research have resulted in new treatments that are prolonging the lives of many people living with the disease. Thousands of scientists, health care professionals, and patients themselves have joined together to advance our understanding of HIV and AIDS and improve treatment options. Because of the heroic efforts of these people, fewer and fewer Americans are losing their lives to AIDS, and for that we are immensely thankful.

But the AIDS epidemic is far from over. Within racial and ethnic minority communities, HIV and AIDS are a severe and ongoing crisis. While the number of deaths in our country attributed to AIDS has declined for 2 consecutive years, AIDS remains the leading killer of African American men aged 25-44 and the second leading killer of African American women in the same age group. African Americans, who comprise only 13 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for 43 percent of new AIDS cases in 1997 and 36 percent of all AIDS cases. Hispanic Americans represent just 10 percent of our population, but they account for more than 20 percent of new AIDS cases; and AIDS is also becoming a critical concern to Native American and Asian American communities. Young people of every racial and ethnic community are also disproportionately impacted by AIDS, both in the number of new AIDS cases and in the number of new HIV infections. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that approximately half of all new HIV infections in the United States occur in people under age 25 and that one-quarter occur in people under age 22.

Across the world, the situation is even more grim. As with other epidemics before it, AIDS hits hardest in areas where knowledge about the disease is scarce and poverty is high. Of the nearly 6 million people newly infected with HIV each year, more than 90 percent live in the poorest nations of the world. Entire communities are threatened by this epidemic, and the growing number of children who will lose parents to AIDS will have a devastating impact on these societies. By the year 2010, there may be as many as 40 million children who will have been orphaned by AIDS, and developing nations will have to struggle to deal with the overwhelming needs of a generation of young people left without parents.

This year's World AIDS Day theme, "Be A Force For Change," is a reminder that each of us has a role to play in bringing the AIDS epidemic to an end. Our response must be comprehensive and ongoing. It must also be a collaborative one, bringing together governments and communities in a shared effort to expand prevention efforts, raise awareness among young people of the risks of HIV infection and how to avoid it, increase access to lifesaving therapies, and ensure that those who are living with HIV and AIDS receive the care and services they need.

Developing a vaccine for HIV is perhaps our best hope of eradicating this terrible disease and stemming the tide of pain and desolation it has wrought. The global community has joined together in making the development of an HIV vaccine a top international priority. Within the next decade, we hope to have the means to stop this deadly virus, but until we reach that day we must remain strong in our crusade to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS and to care for those living with the disease. In this way we can best honor the memory of the many loved ones we have lost to AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 1, 1998, as World AIDS Day. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to defeating HIV and AIDS. I encourage every American to participate in appropriate commemorative programs and ceremonies in workplaces, houses of worship, and other community centers and to reach out to protect and educate our children and to help and comfort all people who are living with HIV and AIDS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

REMARKS BY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT ON WORLD AIDS DAY 1998

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright

Remarks at World AIDS Day 1998, The White House
Washington, D.C., December 1, 1998

As released by the Office of the Spokesman
U.S. Department of State

Mr. President, Brian Atwood, Amy Slemmer of Mothers' Voices Against AIDS, Carol Bellamy of UNICEF, Nafis Sadik of the UN Population Fund, distinguished colleagues, guests and friends. I am pleased to participate in this program but saddened by its necessity.

For today we observe World AIDS day for the eleventh time. And we can expect many more.

I look around this room and I see many valiant members of the global network that is fighting the causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS. That network is strong and deeply motivated; it is growing; it is active almost everywhere; but it is not yet winning the war against this disease of awful and shattering power.

Thirty-three million people are now infected with HIV. And up to forty million children will be orphaned by AIDS by the end of the next decade.

It is a deep human tragedy that 90 percent of AIDS orphans live in sub-Saharan Africa. But this highly mobile disease has migrated to every corner of the earth.

So directly or indirectly, HIV/AIDS threatens us all -- whether as individuals, as family, friends and neighbors, or as members of the global community.

For we cannot build dynamic economies where one in five or even one in twenty adults is being struck down. We cannot create vibrant democratic institutions where communities are preoccupied with suffering and sorrow. We cannot count on stability where the ranks of military and political leadership are decimated. And we cannot expect a strong sense of social responsibility in the young where too many children have no parents.

All this is why fighting HIV/AIDS, and helping its victims, is a foreign policy imperative.

Soon, I will be releasing a report entitled the 1999 U.S. International Response to HIV/AIDS. This is an interagency effort to document the full range of U.S. resources engaged in the struggle against AIDS. We will use it to launch a diplomatic initiative designed to mobilize and energize others around the world -- both from the top down and the bottom up -- so that international organizations, governments and grassroots reinforce each other and pull in the same direction.

If we are to make progress, governments must understand what you and your overseas

counterparts already understand. And that is that HIV/AIDS cannot be denied or ignored or patronized or put off until tomorrow.

This is an urgent, deadly, global threat. It cannot be appeased; it must be confronted.

And as Secretary of State, I will do all I can to see that this imperative is raised as a matter of international security, at the highest levels, at every opportunity, in every region, on every continent.

On this day of special dedication, let us vow to work together across all lines of profession, culture and national borders so that we may bring closer the day when nations and people everywhere are aware of the dangers of this disease; all act to prevent its spread; all afflicted are helped and their human rights respected; and none rest until HIV/AIDS is conquered or controlled.

Thank you. And now I'd like to introduce the head of the agency whose employees have long been on the front lines of this fight, my good friend, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, Brian Atwood.