



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

August 18, 2010

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran,

Thank you for your leadership on issues impacting the health of our nation. I am pleased that the Senate Appropriations Committee increased funding levels for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). However, more must be done. According to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, almost 3,000 AIDS patients nationwide are on waiting lists to receive drugs under the ADAP program. In Florida alone, that number is 1,178. Other states are reducing the amount of drugs covered under their programs, and some states are removing patients from their programs altogether. While President Obama recently announced a reallocation of \$25 million to states that have been the hardest hit by this crisis, it may not be enough.

ADAP programs face a particularly acute crisis. With state budgets under intense pressure from the economic downturn, Federal assistance to keep these programs up and running is all the more important. More and more AIDS cases are being diagnosed in underprivileged communities, and without ADAP, these new patients would have no means of accessing medication. ADAP programs help these Americans stay healthy and remain productive members of society.

I urge you to join me in support of robust funding for programs like ADAP that offer real hope to Americans enduring the throes of this debilitating disease.

Sincerely,