



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

July 20, 2004

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, HHS and Education  
United States Senate  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, HHS and Education  
United States Senate  
123 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Specter and Harkin:

I am writing to draw your attention to the Ryan White program. For the fourth year in a row, all titles under the Ryan White CARE Act, except for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), have been level-funded by the House of Representatives. Taking into account the 0.65% across the board cut to the omnibus appropriation bill in 2003 and 0.59% rescission in 2004, most titles of the CARE Act, except ADAP, have actually experienced cuts. For persons living with HIV/AIDS in the New York Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) and the whole nation, this is terrible news.

New York City remains the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic nationally, with an estimated 84,807 New Yorkers diagnosed and known to be living with HIV or AIDS, and at least an estimated 25,000 additional people living with HIV but not yet diagnosed. In 2002 alone, the number of reported new AIDS cases was 4,155, which surpasses the total number of people living with AIDS in most U.S. cities.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control initiative "Advancing HIV Prevention: New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic," launched in April 2003, will significantly increase the demand for HIV-related care and services in communities across our country and within the New York EMA. This initiative to help HIV-infected individuals learn their status is untenable without providing the resources that will allow them to access care and treatment that can improve and lengthen their lives.

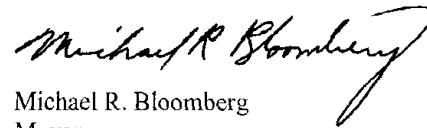
Accordingly, I urge you to consider the FY 2005 appropriations to the Ryan White CARE Act as follows:

Title I:	\$702.0 million	Title IV:	\$101.0 million
Title II Care:	\$387.0million	Part F AETCs:	\$46.0 million
Title II ADAP:	\$965.9 million	Part F Dental:	\$19.0 million
Title III:	\$224.5 million		

The above numbers reflect requests from the Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition, and the National AIDS Appropriation Group (NAAG). New York City is a member of the CAEAR Coalition, and the CAEAR Coalition is a member of NAAG.

Your leadership on this issue is crucial, as the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS depend on it.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor

MRB:jc

cc: Carol Thompson, Acting Director  
White House Office of National AIDS Policy

Elizabeth Duke, Ph.D., Administrator  
Health Resources and Services Administration

Deborah Parham, Ph.D., Associate Administrator  
HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau