



National Office - Washington, DC: 202-835-8373
Administrative Office – Tampa, FL: 813-974-2598

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Media Contacts:

James Sykes, JSykes@theaidsinstitute.org and Jamila Taylor, JTaylor@theaidsinstitute.org

THE AIDS INSTITUTE APPLAUDS PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO AMEND HIV-POSITIVE TRAVEL BAN

*Hopeful that Directive Will End Discriminatory Treatment
of People Living With HIV/AIDS*

Washington, DC – The AIDS Institute is applauding President Bush's World AIDS Day announcement that he is directing his Administration to initiate a rulemaking that would propose a categorical waiver for HIV-positive people seeking to enter the United States on short-term visas.

"We applaud the President and Global AIDS Ambassador Dr. Mark Dybul for taking this step and undoing a historical wrong in our Nation's history", commented Dr. Gene Copello, Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. "Discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS is wrong. Changing the travel ban will hopefully end this terrible era for the US, and bring us more in line with the rest of the world."

The AIDS Institute has been urging the Bush Administration to lift the ban, and is very encouraged by the President's statements that he is "dedicated to ending discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS" and "considers the participation of people living with HIV/AIDS a critical element in the global HIV/AIDS response." He further stated he will direct The Secretary of State to request and the Secretary of Homeland Security to initiate a rulemaking that would propose a categorical waiver for HIV-positive people seeking to enter the United States on short-term visas.

The AIDS Institute looks forward to participating in the rulemaking process and hopes this is a first step in lifting other discriminatory policies currently in place. For example, there still remains a Congressionally imposed immigration ban for people living with HIV/AIDS which needs to be lifted.

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For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact
The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: Info@theaidsinstitute.org
www.TheAIDSInstitute.org

The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes action for social change through public policy research, advocacy and education.