



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

National Office - Washington, DC: 202-835-8373

Administrative Office - Tampa, FL: 813-258-5929

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Media Contact: Carl Schmid, (202) 669-8267, CSchmid@theaidsinstitute.org

THE AIDS INSTITUTE REGISTERS GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT NOMINATION OF THE NEXT U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC - The AIDS Institute is expressing grave concerns over the nomination of Dr. James Holsinger as the next U.S. Surgeon General. "While Dr. Holsinger does have a substantive medical background, there are a number of disturbing reports from his past that are raising red flags," commented Dr. Gene Copello, Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. "Particularly troubling are his views on homosexuality. HIV/AIDS continues to be a major public health epidemic in the United States. With the gay community so heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS, we question if Dr. Holsinger is the right person to be 'America's chief health educator'."

"If the nomination is ever considered by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, we trust Senators will carefully examine the many reports being made about Dr. Holsinger's past to determine if he is the best qualified physician in the country to serve as the nation's Surgeon General for the next four years. The public health of all Americans, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans, is just too important," Copello continued.

According to numerous reports, Dr Holsinger helped to found a church that ministers to persons changing their sexual orientation (so called "ex-gays") and preaches that homosexuality is a chosen lifestyle not an orientation. He also endorsed a pastor who tried to prohibit an openly gay man from joining the church. Time magazine reported in 1991 that Dr. Holsinger quit a United Methodist Church panel on homosexuality "because he felt certain the report would follow liberal lines." He also has written that when viewing homosexuality, "biological and anatomical incompatibility" should be considered.

Copello concluded: "It's difficult to see how a person with these views would be able to reach out to and be accepted by the gay community as an effective health and wellness messenger, a central role of the U.S. Surgeon General."

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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 or www.TheAIDSInstitute.org
The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit agency that promotes action for social change
through public policy research, advocacy and education.*