



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

National Office - Washington, DC: 202-835-8373
Administrative Office - Tampa, FL: 813-258-5929

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Media Contact: Jim Arvantes, (202) 835-8373, JARVANTES@THEAIDSINSTITUTE.ORG

Jeanne White-Ginder Appeals for More Ryan White CARE Act Funding

Washington, DC - Jeanne White-Ginder, the mother of the late Ryan White - the name sake of the Ryan White CARE Act - sent a last minute appeal to House and Senate leaders on June 7th, asking them to include higher funding levels in the reauthorized Ryan White CARE Act pending before Congress in order to provide life saving medications, healthcare, and social services to thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS.

In mid-May, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee passed the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, S. 2823, that surprisingly provides only a 3.7 percent increase for most parts of the CARE Act while flat funding others over the next five years, including Title IV of the program the mission of which is to serve children, youth, women, and families. White-Ginder, a board member of The AIDS Institute, called the proposed funding levels "woefully inadequate" and urged the Congress to increase them so the growing number of people who depend on the CARE Act will have access to life-saving health care services and medication.

White-Ginder in her letter to Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Representatives Joe Burton (R-TX), and John Dingell (D-MI) explained that when Ryan was alive, "we did not have access to all the extraordinary drugs that help so many people stay alive ... although we don't have a cure, today we can do a good job of keeping people alive and allow them to live productive lives - if they have access to healthcare and medications."

In the years ahead, demand for CARE Act services will continue to increase due to a variety of factors - people are living longer and must continue to receive their medications, there are at least 40,000 new infections each year, increased HIV testing efforts are finding new cases, and new drugs are becoming available. White-Ginder commented, the bill "does not even keep up with the medical inflation rate, let alone the growing demand for Ryan White CARE Act medications and healthcare services."

The Ryan White CARE Act now provides life saving and life enhancing services to more than 571,000 uninsured and under insured people with HIV and AIDS. The current reauthorization expired in September 2005, and the bill currently under consideration must cover the needs of eligible recipients for the next five years.

"I urge you to provide adequate funding so that everyone who is in need of these lifesaving medications and medical care has the chance to live productive, healthy and longer lives. We must make sure that people in this country get the basic medical and human services they need to battle this epidemic," wrote White-Ginder. "We couldn't do it for Ryan and so many others, but we can do it now, only with your support. I hope I can count on you."

Info: For copies of the letter, please go to: [Jeanne White-Ginder Letter](#)

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For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy, 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.