



## **CAEAR Coalition Statement Black Lives Matter**

The Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition stands in solidarity with its allies across the country as we process the recent news of a Grand Jury decision not to indict Daniel Pantaleo in the death of Eric Garner and after a similar decision not to indict Darren Wilson, the officer who killed Michael Brown. We are outraged by these decisions and call for immediate and sustained action to examine, analyze, and redress the harmful and pervasive effects of racism.

As a national membership organization that advocates for federal policy, legislation, regulations, and appropriations to meet the care, treatment, support, and prevention needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the organizations that serve them, we know the startling facts. Young black men have a nearly seven times higher risk of contracting HIV or AIDS and four times higher mortality rate from HIV infection than their white peers. Young black gay and bisexual men are the most at-risk population for HIV infection. In some major cities in the United States, the HIV rate among black men who have sex with men is nearly 50 percent. CAEAR Coalition members work tirelessly to eradicate this epidemic because we believe Black Lives Matters as do the lives of All who live with HIV and AIDS.

Much of the reason for the large and disproportionate impact we see on communities of color is due directly to deeply embedded racism and discrimination. We are called—as professionals and citizens—to speak out against systemic racism and oppression in our country overall and our justice system in particular.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest Hopkins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ernest Hopkins  
Chair, CAEAR Coalition

### **CAEAR Coalition**

The Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition is a national membership organization which advocates for federal policy, legislation, regulations, and appropriations to meet the care, treatment, support and prevention needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the organizations that serve them, focusing on health care reform and the evolving role of the Ryan White Program. CAEAR Coalition's proactive national leadership is focused on the Ryan White Program as a central part of the nation's response to HIV/AIDS. CAEAR Coalition's members include Ryan White Program Part A, Part B, and Part C consumers, grantees, and providers as well as the Part F AIDS Education and Training Centers.