

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Since 1990, the Ryan White CARE Act has provided essential care and treatment funding for Americans living with HIV/AIDS. As the payer of last resort, the CARE Act helps to provide critical medical and support services to approximately 577,000 low-income, uninsured and underinsured individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS each year. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the CARE Act has been successful in reaching historically underserved populations, including minorities and women, who account for an increasing number of those living with HIV/AIDS.

As the Senate proceeds with the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization process, we would like to call your attention to a recent report released by the Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief, also known as the CAEAR Coalition, entitled, "*Comprehensive Analysis of All Ryan White CARE Act Programs Shows Greater Funding Equity Among State/Territories.*"

This report looks at all Ryan White CARE Act funding to states and finds that the national average for CARE Act funding per person living with AIDS is \$4,745. It also shows that most states fall close to the national average but that some states - those with the highest numbers of HIV/AIDS cases which includes California and Florida - are *below* the national average in CARE Act funding received per person living with AIDS.

We have enclosed a copy of the report for your review. We urge you to consider the findings of the report and ask that as you consider the allocation of Ryan White CARE Act funding, you look comprehensively at all titles of this program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,









