



December 7, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC, 20502

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC) and the National Black Women's HIV Network (NBWHAN) we thank you for your historic leadership addressing the HIV epidemic in the African American community in the United States and the HIV pandemic abroad. We write today with a sense of urgency to offer our perspectives and recommendations regarding the appointment of the next Director of the Office of National HIV/AIDS Policy.

First we recognize the exemplary service of the current director, Jeffrey S. Crowley and the many ways he has provided strong and intentional leadership to establish and implement your National HIV/AIDS Strategy with fidelity to its vision, goals and objectives. He has served with distinction and we salute him as he moves on. However, if we are to realize the goals as set forth in your strategy and your recent World AIDS Day address of, "Getting to Zero", we must move with dispatch to continue to implement the strategy and retool our domestic response to HIV/AIDS. There is still much to be done and a lag in leadership will send the wrong signal to community and government leaders who are being required to use the scientific research and surveillance data to shift both policy and resources to respond to the epidemic of today.

We respectfully suggest that the time has come for either an African American woman or an African American gay man to be considered for

this position. The inexorable shift in the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 44% of new infections occur in black populations provides an opportunity to both convey at the highest levels that our lives matter, and exert the vital leadership of our black communities in ending AIDS.

We understand there are many components to the presidential appointment process and therefore offer a number of highly, qualified individuals for your consideration. Each individual would make an excellent Director.

We particularly highlight two individuals who should be given priority for consideration:

- Ms. Caya Lewis, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, DHHS, Washington, DC
- Mr. Douglas Brooks, Senior Vice President for Community Health and Public Policy, JRI, Boston, MA

Additional names for consideration include: Dr. Elaine Daniels, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals; Mr. A. Cornelius Baker, FHI360 and the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition; Dr. Dora Hughes, DHHS; Dr. Kevin Williams, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals; and Ms. Frances Ashe-Goins, DHHS.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to our continued engagement with the Administration as we collectively ensure that the AIDS Free Generation becomes a reality.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest C. Hopkins  
Chair, NBGMAC



Ivy Turnbull  
Vice Chair, NBWHAN