



February 16, 2010

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The undersigned are writing in support of the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) released statement, dated February 1, 2010, regarding representation on the newly appointed Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). We are pleased with the caliber of the 24 individuals selected to serve on PACHA. However, we are extremely concerned about the absence of representation from black women openly living with HIV/AIDS on PACHA.

Current HIV/AIDS epidemiological data indicates that this is a significant voice that must be present and accounted for among PACHA's membership. The most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data indicates that HIV infection is the leading cause of death for black women ages 25 to 34 years old, the third leading cause of death for black women ages 35 to 44 years old, and the fourth leading cause of death for black women ages 45 to 54 years old. Additionally, black women account for the largest share of new HIV infections among women with an incidence rate nearly 15 times higher than among white women. Finally, black women account for the majority of new AIDS cases among women (66 percent) and represent more than one third (36 percent) of AIDS cases diagnosed among blacks.

It is hard to imagine how PACHA can realize its mission without the critical voice of black women living with HIV/AIDS counted among its membership. Therefore, we urge your office to take another look at PACHA and expand its membership to ensure that full representation.

Respectfully submitted by the following organizations and individuals (*endorsements as of February 26, 2010*)

ORGANIZATIONS

African Services Committee, New York, New York

Aniz, Inc, Atlanta, GA

Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), New York, NY

Grady Infectious Disease Program, Atlanta, GA

HIV ACCESS, (consortia of primary clinics providing care to PLWHA), Alameda County, CA  
HIV Dental Alliance, Atlanta, GA  
HIV Law Project, Center for Women & HIV Advocacy, New York, New York  
House of Imogene -Shelter & Women's Center, Washington, D.C.  
National Women and AIDS Collective, New York  
New York City HIV Prevention Planning Group- Women and Children's Workgroup  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS), Washington, DC  
South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS (SC-C2EA), Columbia, SC  
The AIDS Institute, Washington, DC  
The Momentum Project, Inc, Village Care of New York  
Women's HIV Collaborative of New York, New York, New York  
Young Women of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition, New York, New York

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*(Additional endorsements included as of February 26, 2010 @ 9:00 PM EST)*

ORGANIZATIONS



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Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease (WORLD), Oakland, CA

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Audria Russell, New York, New York

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your response to our request to appoint a black woman openly living with HIV/AIDS to PACHA and welcome an audience with you to discuss this matter further. Please feel free to contact Ivy Turnbull, Policy Chair or Barbara Joseph, Co-Chair at 1-888-812-0043 or at [nbwhan@yahoo.com](mailto:nbwhan@yahoo.com).

cc: Valerie B. Jarrett  
Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for  
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Dr. Howard K. Koh  
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Christopher Bates  
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*(Additional endorsements included as of March 16, 2010)*

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