

NMAC in Action



 NATIONAL MINORITY
AIDS COUNCIL
Building Healthier Communities

Tell HHS That Black Women Openly Living with HIV/AIDS Should Be Represented on PACHA

February 25, 2010 ~ Washington, DC ~ The [National Black Women HIV/AIDS Network](#) is asking you to sign onto a letter to the United States Department of Health and Human Services regarding the lack of representation of black women openly living with HIV/AIDS on Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

Please sign and return the letter below to the [National Black Women HIV/AIDS Network](#) via e-mail: NBWHAN@yahoo.com.

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 of 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 full representation.

All African American women, women's organizations, and women affected must make a stand to be sure that our diverse issues are addressed.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully submitted by the following organizations and individuals,

(Signatories)

About NMAC

The [National Minority AIDS Council](http://www.nmac.org) (NMAC) has advanced its mission, "to develop leadership within communities of color to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS" since 1987 through individualized capacity building assistance; technical assistance trainings; public policy education programs; national and regional conferences; treatment and research education programs; online and printed resource materials; and a website: www.nmac.org. The agency also serves as a membership association for its constituent AIDS service organizations and minority faith- and community-based organizations delivering HIV/AIDS services in communities of color and advocates on their behalf in Washington, D.C. NMAC's advocacy efforts are funded through private funders and donors only.

For more information, please contact NMAC directly at (202) 483-NMAC (6622) ext. 309 or communications@nmac.org. You may find us online at www.nmac.org as well as on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/nmac.org), [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Minority_AIDS_Council), [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/nmacorg), [MyPhotoAlbum.com](http://www.mypalbum.com) and [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8).

Subscription Information

Please share this message with colleagues and friends, and encourage them to subscribe for themselves. [Click here to forward this message](#). To [unsubscribe](#), send a reply to this message with the word, "REMOVE" in the subject line. [Click here to change your e-mail preferences](#).

About NMAC

The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) has advanced its mission, “to develop leadership within communities of color to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS” since 1987 through individualized capacity building assistance, technical assistance trainings, public policy education programs; national and regional conferences; treatment and research education programs; online and printed resource materials; and a website: <http://www.nmac.org/>. The agency also serves as a membership association for its constituents - AIDS service organizations and minority faith- and community-based organizations - delivering HIV/AIDS services in communities of color and advocates on their behalf in Washington, DC.

NMAC's advocacy efforts are funded through private funders and donors only. For more information, please contact us directly at (202) 483-NMAC (6622) or communications@nmac.org. You may find us online at <http://www.nmac.org/>, as well as on Facebook.com, Wikipedia.com, Twitter.com (@NMACCommunity), MyPhotoAlbum.com (NMACpics) and YouTube.com (commnmac channel).

Subscription Information

Please share this NMAC in Action with colleagues and friends, and encourage them to subscribe for themselves. [Click here to forward this message](#). To unsubscribe from NMAC in Action, send a reply to this message with the word, "REMOVE", in the subject line.

[Click here to change your e-mail preferences.](#)