



The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network Commemorates National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 10, 2014: As we commemorate the ninth annual National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) call on the President to restore funding to Ryan White Part D and we ask every woman to join us in this request.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Black people account for almost half of all new infections in the United States as well as almost half of all people living with HIV. Although new HIV infections among black women decreased by 21 percent in 2010; they account for 13 percent of all new HIV infections and the majority (64%) of all new infections among women overall. The HIV incidence rate for black women remains 20 times as high as that of white women, and almost five times that of Hispanic women.(1)

“Something's not right. The system is still failing women in 2014. It doesn't make sense that the President would eliminate funding for Part D programs from his budget when these programs provide specialized primary medical care and supportive services to HIV-positive women, infants, children and youth. Women and girls living with HIV need these vital services to live healthier lives,” said Barbara Joseph, Chair.

It is hard to imagine that this country would be successful in achieving an AIDS-free generation when it does not take care of some of its most vulnerable citizens. The elimination of Part D would surely place these populations in further peril and impede this nation's ability to reduce the rate of new HIV infections, improve access to care and address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on Black women and girls.

The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network opposes the President's budget proposal and is committed to continuing its' work to ensure that programs intended to improve access to care and health outcomes for Black women living with and at risk of HIV are sustained.

About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN)

The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN or “the Network) is organized to provide leadership and expertise in the prevention and spread of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities that affect black women and girls nationally and internationally. The mission of the NBWHAN is to reduce the burden of morbidity, mortality and stigma of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities associated with gender, social, and economic inequities among Black women and girls.

Contact:

Barbara Joseph, Chair

National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network at: www.nbwhan@yahoo.com,
<https://www.facebook.com/NBWHAN>, or 1-888-812-0043.

Reference:

The Kaiser Family Foundation. Fact Sheet: Black Americans and HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet, March 2013.