



# CAMPAIGN TO **END AIDS**

**WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO STOP AIDS.  
LET'S DEMAND THAT OUR LEADERS USE THEM.**

When it comes to the global devastation of AIDS, we're at an exciting—and crucial—juncture. Finally, we have the treatment and prevention tools to halt the epidemic's deadly toll and then go on to find a cure for those infected and a vaccine for those at risk. The only thing stopping us is lack of political will. So let's insist that our governments and private institutions take the following steps to contain the pandemic, once and for all:

**1. Fully fund high-quality treatment and support services for all people living with HIV everywhere in the world.**

From Alabama to Africa, millions of people with HIV lack the anti-retrovirals and other medications, health care and supportive services like stable housing that they need to stay alive. We must end racial disparities in access to care in the US and national disparities worldwide. At the heart of the Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA) is the mandate that every HIV-positive person, in the US or abroad, has access to the treatment and care necessary to sustain health and prolong life.

**2. Ramp up HIV prevention at home and abroad, guided by science rather than ideology.**

More than 20 years of scientific data show that sexual abstinence, condom use and needle-exchange programs (NEPs) are proven, effective means of reducing the risk and incidence of HIV transmission. But in recent years a disproportionate focus on abstinence-only HIV education has left those at the greatest risk of contracting HIV with an

incomplete toolkit of preventive measures. Let's get back to frank, robust, community-based prevention programs that have been proven to bring down HIV rates—and save lives.

**3. Increase research to find a cure, more effective treatments and better prevention tools.**

Science has made great strides in the past decade in developing HIV medications that have prolonged countless lives. But those medications are often difficult to take and rife with side effects—and they are not a cure for HIV. Let's mobilize the political will to find a cure for AIDS and an effective preventive vaccine. While we're at it, let's support the development of promising prevention methods, like microbicides (anti-microbial gels that can be an ingredient in sexual lubricants or applied without requiring the consent of one's sexual partner).

**4. Fight AIDS stigma and protect the civil rights of all people with HIV and AIDS everywhere.**

Despite an increase in AIDS awareness over the past 25 years, HIV-positive people still deal with stigma that can be, at times, overwhelming and result in devastating consequences, ranging from the loss of jobs and housing to social ostracization and violence. We need the rights of people with HIV/AIDS to be protected by the law, not to have the law used to criminalize people with HIV.

See our full 21-point plan on the web at [www.endAIDSnow.org](http://www.endAIDSnow.org)

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## **C2EA: FRONT-BURNER ISSUES FOR 2005**

### **1. Reauthorize and fully fund the Ryan White CARE Act.**

Since 1990, the year it was initially passed, the CARE Act has provided hundreds of thousands of Americans with HIV/AIDS with lifesaving treatment, care and other supportive services. But in recent years, it has also been severely under-funded, leading to waitlists for HIV meds in several states and an across-the-board squeeze on its crucial services. This year, 2005, let's work to make sure that Congress not only OKs the CARE Act for another five years but keeps its fundamental, existing structure and services intact—and allocates to it the \$2.5 billion it needs to be fully operative.

### **2. Keep Medicaid strong for people with HIV/AIDS and all other beneficiaries.**

Medicaid provides lifesaving health care to countless low-income Americans, including 55 percent of all Americans with HIV/AIDS. As budget negotiations play out in Congress this year, let's fight to protect Medicaid from budget cuts and structural changes that could hinder its ability to help HIV-positive people and others with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

### **3. Strengthen the global fight against AIDS by fully funding the Global Fund and backing 100% debt cancellation.**

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a global war chest that funnels resources from nations, organizations and

individuals to poor nations hardest hit by those diseases—but it could do so much more for those countries if it got the \$1.5 billion it needs from US Congress in 2005 to effectively combat the global pandemic. And let's continue to urge wealthy nations to cancel 100% of the debt owed by developing nations to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, so that impoverished countries can use their own money to fight AIDS and other public-health crises that are threatening their existence.

### **4. Restore and revive effective HIV prevention worldwide based on the best science.**

In recent years, scientifically-proven methods of HIV prevention—such as condom use and needle-exchange programs—have been downplayed, ignored and even discredited entirely by politicians responding to religious ideology that demands complete abstinence from sex outside of heterosexual marriage and by governments that criminalize injection-drug use rather than approaching it as a public-health issue. We desperately need these lifesaving prevention approaches—as well as any methods of HIV prevention backed by sound, scientific data. Let's demand that governments restore them to their rightful place in the prevention toolkit—and fund them robustly, both here and abroad.

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