

The **FAIR**
Fair Allocations In Research
FOUNDATION

www.FAIRFoundation.org

11/02/08

Readers Forum—Letter to the Editor

Cc: Reporter Laura Ungar

The Courier-Journal

P.O. Box 740031

Louisville, Ky.

40201-7431

RE: *HIV/AIDS cases increase in Louisville (10/16/08)*

It was a stunning omission by reporter Laura Ungar and the quoted health officials to not provide proper disclosure of the great success of Kentucky citizens and health officials against HIV/AIDS. As reported in the Kentucky Department of Public Health's latest Semi-annual HIV/AIDS report (Table 16),¹ the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS in the most recent reported year (2006) was four, a ninety-eight percent decline from the high in 1992.

Hopefully, in the future Ungar and the health officials will focus on the positive instead of stating "alarm" in an attempt to frighten citizens over small increases in HIV patients, and they will report infections as numbers instead of percentages which create a falsely large impression of the infections.

HIV patient Hamilton is quoted complaining at receiving less HIV funding for his housing expenses and that is also illuminating. The Department of Health and Human Services has only one department that gives billions of dollars to patients for housing and that is HOPWA: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS.² There is no HOPWD for Housing Opportunities for Persons with Diabetes or other illnesses. Hamilton should be grateful for the unfair favoritism in funding he receives as an HIV patient—it is significant and not available to non-AIDS patients.



Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: Past National Public Citizen of the Year (NASW)

President and CEO: The FAIR Foundation, a national organization with thousands of members and supporters whose goal is to reverse inequities in NIH research funding and to institute new organ-donor policies to reverse America's organ-donor crisis

Founder: The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group

Author: Coma Life, an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer, coma, 3 liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes & Muscular Dystrophy

¹ <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/DBDD4013-6A79-4914-8DFC-3F386561E6D3/0/SemiAnnualDec2006FINALwithNKYPhoneChange.pdf>

² <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/programs/>