

12/28/08

President-elect Barack Obama
c/o Transition Team
451 6th Street NW
Washington, DC 20002-5259

RE: New NIH Director and cessation of HIV/AIDS favoritism

Dear President-Elect Obama,

In regards to the upcoming appointment of a new NIH Director and the continuing requests by CDC Director Gerberding and NIH Directors Fauci and Fenton for additional billions of dollars for HIV/AIDS programs, please note the following facts that are most pertinent in this time of our country's and our government's financial crisis:

- The amount of funding on HIV disease by our government since the inception of HIV in our country is now approximately \$275 billion dollars.ⁱ We are spending \$700 billion to rescue our country and we've budgeted/or spent more than one-third that amount on one disease.
- The 2009 HIV/AIDS budget request is already large at \$24.1 billion.ⁱⁱ
- The NIH NIAID budget for HIV/AIDS bio-medical research is \$2.9 billion, which is a full ten percent of the entire bio-medical research budget.ⁱⁱⁱ
- HIV/AIDS deaths have plummeted over 90 percent in many states (see enclosed sheet) including a 98 percent decline in newly-infected patient deaths in California from 9,764 to 229.^{iv}
- \$48 billion has been budgeted this year for PEPFAR and global HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. Consider: the amount of NIH bio-medical research on every disease know to man is only \$29 billion yet we budget \$48 billion, a preponderance of which will go toward one disease in one country: HIV in Africa.^v
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has spent approximately \$7 billion on global HIV efforts to date and is approaching \$1 billion in expenditures for HIV vaccine research,^{vi}
- Warren Buffet has pledged most of his wealth to the Gates Foundation and Buffet is supportive of Gates bias in favor of HIV/AIDS funding.^{vii}
- Our country's top HIV/AIDS researcher, Dr. Fauci has said, "...the scientific advancements that have been made in HIV [research] are breathtaking [with] highly effective drugs to

suppress HIV to the point where what was a death sentence in the early eighties to now having patients who look and feel well, who are leading very productive, very gratifying lives..."

- o I have included a CD of Dr. Fauci stating this telling statement for your review.


When our organization exhibits at large conventions and the attendees see our banner that is shown on the enclosed brochure, a new member joins, on average, every 2 minutes all day long while expressing great anger and disgust at the favoritism that continues to be afforded HIV disease in funding by our government.

For example, it is well recognized that hepatitis C (HCV) is responsible for more deaths in AIDS patients than the opportunistic infections that used to kill them.^{viii} Diabetes kills more Americans than AIDS and breast cancer combined and cardiovascular disease (CVD) kills 871,000 compared to 14,016 for AIDS. The NIH is spending \$20, \$39, \$29 on each patient with HCV, diabetes & CVD on bio-medical research versus \$2,774 on each HIV patient. Similar small amounts are being allocated for thousands of other illnesses, including 6,000 rare illnesses that receive, on average, only \$200,000 per illness from the NIH for biomedical research.^{ix} It is time to cease the favoritism for HIV.

We are respectfully requesting that you appoint an NIH Director who is devoid of a bias for HIV/AIDS funding and that consideration be given to increasing the funding for non-AIDS illnesses. Indeed, with budgetary limitations now in place due to our government's financial crisis that prevent overall increases, we recommend that Congress and the NIH do what homeowners are doing: reallocating funds where appropriate, in this case from HIV to other illnesses that have not had the same success that Dr. Fauci has laudably achieved and describes so well on the CD.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we extend our sincere congratulations on your successful Presidential campaign.

Sincerely yours,

 and our 26-member Board of Directors listed below

Richard Darling, DDS, Past National Public Citizen of the Year
President & CEO, FAIR Foundation

Founder: The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group

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

ⁱ Henry J. Kaiser Foundation reports \$150 billion HIV funding up to 2004. Every year thereafter the amount budgeted has been \$20+ billion including \$24.1 billion for 2009. In addition, one must note the \$48 billion PEPFAR funding, of which approx \$30 billion is for global AIDS.

ⁱⁱ <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7029-041.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.nih.gov/news/fundingresearchareas.htm>

^{iv} <http://fairfoundation.org/quiz/quizanswer.htm>

^v http://kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=53609

^{vi} http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm

^{vii} http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm

^{viii} http://fairfoundation.org/specter_letter_hcv_in_aids_pts.pdf

^{ix} <http://www.fairfoundation.org/factslinks.htm>



www.FAIRFoundation.org

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Kress Darling, Patient Advocate, Migraine Headache & Osteoporosis



HIV/AIDS Death Totals by State including the District of Columbia Compiled from each State's Department of Public Health

NOTE* The death totals from many states' (e.g. CA, IL) include deaths from non-AIDS causes, such as automobile accidents, assault, heart attack, etc. In other instances, HIV/AIDS deaths are under-reported due to insufficient reporting and in some instances, opportunistic infections are stated on the death certificate instead of HIV/AIDS.

State	Deaths	Year	% ↓
Alabama	132	2006	72%
Alaska	6	2006	84%
Arizona	33	2006	84%
Arkansas	73	2006	62%
California	1,113	2007	86%
Colorado	82	2006	80%
Connecticut	74	2006	91%
Delaware	83	2006	54%
District of Columbia	224	2006	33%
Florida	1,746	2006	60%
Georgia Pg. 23	679	2006	N/A
Hawaii	25	2005	93%
Idaho Pg. 17	10	2006	N/A
Illinois	192	2007	89%
Indiana	7	2006	75%
Iowa	16	2007	85%
Kansas	31	2006	77%
Kentucky Table 16	4	2006	98%
Louisiana	500	2005	N/A
Maine "Epi Profile"	11	2006	84%
Maryland	386	2006	75%
Massachusetts	179	2006	82%
Michigan	214	2007	77%
Minnesota (Table 4)	56	2006	90%
Mississippi	27	2006	89%

State	Deaths	Year	% ↓
Missouri	129	2007	N/A
Montana	6	2006	77%
Nebraska	24	2006	N/A
Nevada	106	2007	71%
New Hampshire	11	2005	N/A
New Jersey	528	2006	79%
New Mexico	51	2006	78%
New York	1,209	2006	86%
North Carolina	425	2006	N/A
North Dakota	3	2006	N/A
Ohio	196	2006	80%
Oklahoma	9	2006	97%
Oregon	48	2006	86%
Pennsylvania	97	2006	95%
Rhode Island	26	2006	87%
South Carolina	249	2005	55%
South Dakota	8	2006	N/A
Tennessee	333	2006	50%
Texas	1,029	2006	62%
Utah	23	2006	85%
Vermont	6	2006	N/A
Virginia	183	2006	81%
Washington	83	2007	86%
West Virginia	9	2006	92%
Wisconsin	72	2006	81%
Wyoming	12	2006	N/A

The total reported above by all fifty states and DC is **10,778**.

The Center for Disease Control estimate is 30 percent higher at **14,016**.



When you were in high school, if your father had slipped you \$29 in crisp dollar bills, you would've been elated. But what if he then turned to your sister and handed her \$2,774? Would you have shouted...

“That’s not fair!”

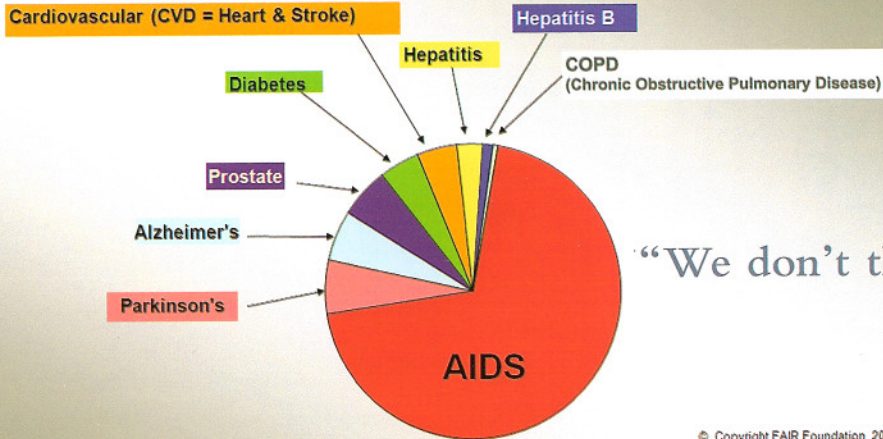
Without a doubt.

The FAIR
Fair Allocations In Research
FOUNDATION

“Is this fair?”



NIH Research Money Budgeted per Death



“We don't think so!”

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The Issue

Cardiovascular disease kills 870,000 per year vs. 14,016 for AIDS
Cardiovascular disease: \$2,714 per death vs. \$206,906 for AIDS



THE TRUTH

Believe it or not, if you or a loved one suffer from cardiovascular disease (CVD) or any other disease except cancer, our government has handed you that \$29 dollars for bio-medical research or a similar small amount, while unfairly giving each of your sisters and brothers – a.k.a. patients suffering from AIDS – a whopping \$2,774.

The lion's share of the Federal research budget is spent on AIDS – a disease that is killing a fraction of Americans each year when compared with diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's. Even the flu kills twice as many people as AIDS.

CVD kills 870,000 every year, which is 62 times more than AIDS. Diabetes kills more Americans than AIDS and breast cancer combined, yet the government is spending only \$39 on each diabetic compared to that \$2,774 on each HIV patient. The shocking truth is that CVD receives over 1/2 billion less than AIDS, and the increase in AIDS funding since 1999—just the increase— is greater than the entire budget for every other disease except cancer. Billions for AIDS also comes from pharmaceutical companies, the 50 states, celebrities and well-intentioned citizens like Bill Gates.

FAIR IS FAIR

The FAIR (Fair Allocations In Research) Foundation is dedicated to equitable research funds for all diseases, including the 16 that kill a million more Americans than AIDS annually. Our secondary factors insure diseases that cause great suffering with low mortality (6,000 rare illnesses) will also receive increased funding.

AIDS activists should be commended for reducing AIDS deaths 98 percent in California's newly infected patients and over 90% in many other States. But now it is time to start giving other diseases their fair share of research dollars so that they, too, can experience better health.

But the need for change isn't just about AIDS. The amount spent on research for the "Health Effects of Climate Change" is greater than the funding for brain cancer, Down Syndrome, cystic fibrosis, autism, cerebral palsy, cervical cancer, hepatitis B & C, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, uterine cancer and 6,000 other maladies. That's not fair either.

Choose today to join the thousands of FAIR Foundation members and supporters in all fifty states who are calling for change.



A 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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www.fairfoundation.org

Are these Fair Allocations In Research?

Disease	2009 NIH Research \$	Deaths Per Disease	\$ Per Patient Death	\$ Per Patient
COPD	90 Million	126,128	\$ 714	\$ 7
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Cardiovascular Disease	2.3 Billion	871,500	\$ 2,714	\$ 29
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817	\$ 13,365	\$ 39
Parkinson's Disease	186 Million	19,547	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Alzheimer's Disease	644 Million	71,696	\$ 8,928	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
HIV/AIDS	2.9 Billion	14,016	\$ 206,906	\$ 2,774
All Cancers Total	5.5 Billion	559,650	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
West Nile Virus	56 Million	124	\$ 451,613	\$ 15,427

6,000 orphan (rare) diseases receive, on average, only \$200,000 per illness.

Visit our website to view our 27-member Board of Directors of surgeons, medical directors, dentists, pharmacists and patient advocates.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The FAIR Foundation is determined to increase research funding for your disease of interest. Please tear off this page and send your donation today. We thank you for your support!

YES, I WANT TO HELP! PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF \$ _____

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