



www.FAIRFoundation.org

1/17/09

TO: American Idol Executive Producer Simon Fuller  
c/o 19 Entertainment, 8560 West Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069  
Cc: American Idol Series Executive Producers Cecile Frot-Coutaz, CEO and Ken Warwick  
FremantleMedia North America, Inc.; 1540 Broadway, 35th Fl., NYC, NY 10036-4039  
: American Idol host Ryan Seacrest, Ryan Seacrest Productions, Inc. 5750 Wilshire Blvd. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Floor, Los Angeles CA 90036  
: American Idol judges – Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi  
American Idol, 7800 Beverly Blvd. Suite 251, Los Angeles, CA 90036

FROM: Dr. Richard Darling, DDS, President & CEO and our Board of Directors of surgeons,  
medical directors and patient advocates listed below

RE: *Idol Gives Back!* Beneficiaries

Dear Mr. Fuller,

Our organization now has thousands of members and supporters in all fifty states. In representing them, I join with our 26-member Board of Directors of surgeons, medical directors, and patient advocates as co-signers of this letter below in applauding you for your past efforts to assist various laudable causes,<sup>i</sup> including The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria patients.

We are respectfully requesting that consideration be given to distributing all of this years "Idol Gives Back!" HIV/AIDS proceeds to bio-medical research on non-AIDS illnesses including thoughtfulness of the numerous patients with rare illnesses, which receive very minimal funding from our government.

We offer the following thoughts to give credence to our request:

- A full ten percent of our government's budget for bio-medical research (\$2.9 billion) goes to only one disease: HIV/AIDS.<sup>ii</sup>
- The success of NIH research efforts are stunning: HIV/AIDS deaths have plummeted wherever the HAART therapy has been instituted, including in the USA where HIV deaths have decreased over 90 percent<sup>iii</sup> in many states including a 98 percent decline in newly-infected patient deaths in California from 9,764 in 1992 to 229 (as of 8/31/08).<sup>iv</sup>
- Confirming this success, our country's top HIV/AIDS researcher and the Director of the NIH's NIAID which oversees all HIV research funding, Anthony Fauci, MD has said on CNN, ""...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..."<sup>v</sup>

- The amount of funding on HIV disease by our government since the inception of HIV in our country is now approximately \$275 billion dollars.<sup>vi</sup>
- \$48 billion has been budgeted this year for PEPFAR and global HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and most of this will go towards battling HIV. Consider: the amount of NIH bio-medical research on every disease know to man is only \$29 billion.<sup>vii</sup>
- HIV disease has also received great funding from sources in addition to the US government's largess:
  - 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,<sup>viii</sup>
  - 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.<sup>ix</sup>
  - The television shows "Survivor" and "The Apprentice" have given the proceeds of their auctions to HIV/AIDS beneficiaries for years.
  - Numerous private individuals in Hollywood and elsewhere, such as Elizabeth Taylor and Sharon Stone, and major organizations like amfAR have raised billions of dollars for HIV programs for decades.
  - Pharmaceutical companies have spent billions of dollars in research & development to develop effective remedies for HIV
- Many research efforts by universities, etc. that rely on philanthropic donations by individuals and non-profits are suffering severe decreases in contributions due to our country's and the Madoff financial crises. HIV/AIDS, due to its exorbitant federal and private funding sources, is not experiencing the same degree of shortages.
- According to the United Nations and several of the world's most eminent health scientists and organizations who published a landmark global consensus in *Nature*, Chronic Non-communicable Diseases (CNCD), such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and many cancers kill twice as many globally as the combined total of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, maternal & peri-natal conditions, and nutritional deficiencies.<sup>x xi</sup>
- The 2009 HIV/AIDS budget request is already significant at \$24.1 billion.<sup>xii</sup> This includes a program that has distributed billions of dollars to fund HIV/AIDS patients' housing/mortgage, etc. expenses. It is called HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Patients with AIDS)<sup>xiii</sup> and our government (HUD) has no such program for non-AIDS illnesses like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease, etc.

When our organization exhibits at large conventions and the attendees see our banner below that displays our government's research bias in favor of HIV disease, a new member joins FAIR, on

average, every two minutes all day long while expressing great anger and disgust at the favoritism that continues to be afforded HIV disease in funding.

### **Our Government's Bio-Medical Research Allocations by the National Institutes of Health**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>2009 NIH Research \$\$</b>	<b>Deaths Per Disease</b>	<b>\$\$ Per Patient Death</b>	<b>\$\$ Per Patient</b>
COPD *	90 Million	126,128	\$ 714	\$ 7
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Cardiovascular Dis.	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 Dis.	186 Million	19,547	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	71,696	\$ 8,928	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>2.9 Billion</b>	<b>14,016</b>	<b>\$ 206,906</b>	<b>\$ 2,774</b>

\* COPD is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

The NIH Orphan (rare) Drug Allocation of \$1.2 Billion for 6,000 orphan diseases equals only \$200,000, on average, for bio-medical research on each illness.

We respectfully restate our request that the HIV portion of your philanthropy be re-directed to bio-medical research on non-HIV/AIDS illnesses.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we extend our sincere congratulations on your successful show and your praiseworthy past efforts for HIV/AIDS patients.

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.americanidol.com/idolgivesback/where/>

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

<sup>iii</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids\\_deaths\\_by\\_state.htm](http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids_deaths_by_state.htm)

<sup>iv</sup> <http://fairfoundation.org/quiz/quizanswer.htm>

<sup>v</sup> <http://fairfoundation.org/fauci.wmv>

<sup>vi</sup> 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.

<sup>vii</sup> [http://kaisernetwork.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm?DR\\_ID=53609](http://kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=53609)

<sup>viii</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/news\\_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm](http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm)

<sup>ix</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/news\\_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm](http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm)

<sup>x</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/news\\_letter/2008/01march/nature\\_magazine.pdf](http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2008/01march/nature_magazine.pdf)

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.peterrussell.com/Odds/WorldClock.php>

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

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



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