

05/11/09

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI), Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Every 56 seconds a diabetic reaches out to you for fairer bio-medical research funding

Dear Senator Inouye,

When our national organization exhibits at diabetes conventions, a diabetic or his/her family member joins, on average, every 56 seconds all day long while expressing resentment at the disproportionately paltry funding for diabetes in comparison to HIV/AIDS.

Diabetes kills more Americans than AIDS and breast cancer combined, and the CDC estimates 24 million are affected by this malady. One may compare that to the CDC's estimate of only 14,110 deaths in 1 million HIV/AIDS patients.

On behalf of our thousands of diabetics who are members of our organization and millions of others, we are respectfully urging that you and your committee recognize the great success that has been made against HIV/AIDS and cease its exorbitant funding—now a full 10 percent of the NIH budget--with a corresponding redistribution of a significant portion of HIV funding to diabetes and other non-AIDS illnesses that have not achieved the success against HIV as described by the NIAID Director, Anthony Fauci, MD.

Disease	2009 NIH Research \$\$	Deaths Per Disease	\$\$ Per Patient Death	\$\$ Per Patient
COPD *	90 Million	126,128 (i)	\$ 714	\$ 7
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000 (g)	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500 (b)	\$ 2,714	\$ 29
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000 (h)	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817 (c)	\$13,365	\$ 39
Parkinson's Dis.	186 Million	19,547 (f)	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	71,696 (d)	\$ 8,928	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050 (e)	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
HIV/AIDS	2.9 Billion	14,016 (a)	\$ 206,906	\$ 2,774
All Cancers Total	5.5 Billion	559,650 (k)	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910 (k)	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
West Nile Virus	39 Million	37 (j)	\$1,054,054	\$28,467

Dr. Fauci stated 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...”.

Please note the following facts that are most pertinent in this time of our country 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 approaching \$300 billion dollars.ⁱ
- Under the President’s stimulus plan, \$7.4 billion more is being allocated to the NIH Institutes in a pro-rata manner according to past-year funding, thus, we might now see HIV get 10 percent of that also—another \$470 million in addition to its present \$2.9 billion.
- The 2009 HIV/AIDS budget request is already large at \$24.1 billion.ⁱⁱ
- HIV/AIDS deaths have plummeted over 90 percent in many states including a 98 percent rate of decline in newly-infected patient deaths in California from 9,764 to 146 (as of 3/31/09).ⁱⁱⁱ
- \$48 billion has been budgeted this year for PEPFAR and global HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and the majority of those funds will go to fighting HIV disease. Consider: the amount of NIH bio-medical research on every disease know to man is only \$29 billion.^{iv}
- 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,^v
- 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.^{vi} 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. In addition, the fund-raising proceeds of television shows like “Survivor,” “The Apprentice” and “American Idol” have also resulted in hundreds of millions going to HIV disease efforts.

With legal vernacular, we pray that your committee cease any more funding for HIV/AIDS bio-medical research and that any such considered funds, and a significant portion of present HIV/AIDS funding, be reallocated to diabetes and other illnesses that have not had the same success that Dr. Fauci has laudably achieved and describes in the above quote.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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.

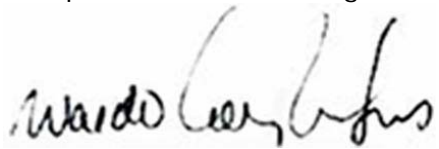
ⁱⁱ <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7029-041.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://fairfoundation.org/quiz/quizanswer.htm>

^{iv} http://kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=53609

^v http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm

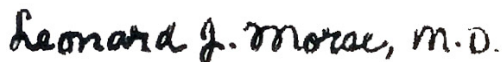
^{vi} http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm



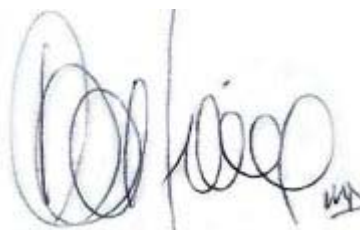
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Member, Webster Univ. Arts and Sciences Advisory
Board and Regional Health Commission Award

Ray Hill, Patient Advocate HIV/AIDS
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Achievement Award; Houston's Gay
Male Hero Award-seven years in a row

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