



February 16, 2010

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The undersigned are writing in support of the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) released statement, dated February 1, 2010, regarding representation on the newly appointed Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). We are pleased with the caliber of the 24 individuals selected to serve on PACHA. However, we are extremely concerned about the absence of representation from black women openly living with HIV/AIDS on PACHA.

Current HIV/AIDS epidemiological data indicates that this is a significant voice that must be present and accounted for among PACHA's membership. The most recent Centers of Disease Control and Prevention data indicates that HIV infection is the leading cause of death for black women ages 25 to 34 years old, the third leading cause of death for black women ages 35 to 44 years old, and the fourth leading cause of death for black women ages 45 to 54 years old. Additionally, black women account for the largest share of new HIV infections among women with an incidence rate nearly 15 times higher than among white women. Finally, black women account for the majority of new AIDS cases among women (66 percent) and represent more than one third (36 percent) of AIDS cases diagnosed among blacks.

It is hard to imagine how PACHA can realize its mission without the critical voice of black women living with HIV/AIDS counted among its membership. Therefore, we urge your office to take another look at PACHA and expand its membership to ensure that full representation.

Respectfully submitted by the following organizations and individuals (*endorses as of February 26, 2010*)

ORGANIZATIONS

African Services Committee, New York, New York

Aniz, Inc, Atlanta, GA

Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), New York, NY

Grady Infectious Disease Program, Atlanta, GA

HIV ACCESS, (consortia of primary clinics providing care to PLWHA), Alameda County, CA
HIV Dental Alliance, Atlanta, GA
HIV Law Project, Center for Women & HIV Advocacy, New York, New York
House of Imogene -Shelter & Women's Center, Washington, D.C.
National Women and AIDS Collective, New York
New York City HIV Prevention Planning Group- Women and Children's Workgroup
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS), Washington, DC
South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS (SC-C2EA), Columbia, SC
The AIDS Institute, Washington, DC
The Momentum Project, Inc, Village Care of New York
Women's HIV Collaborative of New York, New York, New York
Young Women of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition, New York, New York

INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION

Andréa L. Alfred, Blandford Family Partnership, Ltd, Houston, TX
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Anthony, Judah International Christian Center, Inc. Brooklyn, New York
Hanna Bengtsson Evans, MSW, The Empowerment Program, Denver, Colorado
Raymond Blanks, The Gerasene Group, Washington, DC
Dr. Carmelita Blake, New York University, New York, New York
Carrie Broadus, Executive Director, Women Alive Coalition, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
The Rev. Pat Bumgardner, Chair, Global Justice Ministry of Metropolitan Community Churches,
New York, New York
Jasmine Burnett, Aunt Betty's Basement, Brooklyn, NY
Marilyn N. Burnett, Executive Director -Older Women Embracing Life (OWEL), Baltimore,
MD
Rudolph H. Carn, Founder & CEO, NAESM, Inc, Atlanta, GA
DeeDee Chamblee, ED, La Gender, Inc. Atlanta, GA
Ravinia Hayes-Cozier, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy, National Minority
AIDS Council, Washington DC
Maria Davis, Founder, MAD Promotions, New York, New York
Worthy Grand Matron, Minnie E. Eley, Star of Hope Grand Chapter, A.F. & A. M., New York,
New York
Bambi W. Gaddist, Dr.Ph, Executive Director, South Carolina HIV Council, Columbia, SC

Tracie M. Gardner, Coordinator of WISH-NY (Women's Initiative to Stop HIV), a project of the Legal Action Center, New York, New York

Pamela Johnson-Gibbs, M.A.Ed, LPC, Health Services Coordinator Canton City Health Dept., Canton

Cynthia Carey-Grant, Executive Director, WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease), Oakland, CA USA

Sharyn R. Grayson, 2009-2010 Chair, Persons Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) Committee Alameda/Contra Costa County (Collaborative) Community Planning Council, Oakland, CA

Vanessa Johnson, National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), Washington, DC

Sherri L. Henigan, Women Together For Change, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Rusti Miller-Hill, Founder- Brandon's House One Inc, New York, New York

Sandra Honor, Past Royal Matron, OES, AFAM, Harlem, New York

Beri Hull, Global Advocacy Officer, International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS, Washington, DC

Barbara Joseph, Executive Director- Positive Efforts, Houston, Texas

Brook Kelly, HIV Human Rights Attorney, New York, New York

Pat Kelly, A Family Affair, Orangeburg, SC

Deborah Levine, Matron Golden Rule #67, New York, New York

David J. Malebranche, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Emory University Division of General Medicine; Atlanta, GA

Jaon Malin, President & CEO, Plan Parenthood of New York City, New York, New York

Hank Millbourne, LMSW, MA, M Div, Associate Executive Director-Director of Prevention Services, AIDS Partnership Michigan, Detroit, MI

Anthony C. Mitchell, President of the Westchester Chapter of the National Black Police Association

Candace Y.A. Montague, DC HIV/AIDS Examiner, Washington, DC

Patricia Nalls, Founder/Executive Director, The Women's Collective, Washington, DC

Larry David Pasco, Harm Reduction Institute, Indianapolis, Indiana

Denise Polite, Past Matron, OES-AFAM, Yonkers, New York

Carol F. Roye, EdD, RN, Professor, and Assistant Dean Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing City University of New York

Michelle Sajous, Past Matron, OES- AF&AM, Golden Rule #67, Harlem, New York

J. Kendall Smalls, Clinical Embryologist Msc, Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Science at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, West Orange, NJ

J. Kendall Smalls, 2nd District Social Action Chair, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. NY, NJ, Penn, DE, MD

Joanne Smith, Founder/Executive Director, Girls for Gender Equity, New York, New York

Sean Strub, The Founder, POZ Magazine

Teresa Sullivan, Philadelphia FIGHT, Philadelphia, PA

Louise Tarver, Past Matron, OES, AFAM, Harlem, New York

Adam Tenner, Executive Director, Metro TeenAIDS

Ivy Turnbull, Brooklyn United Community Coalition, Brooklyn, New York

Dr. Joyce Tunrer Keller, Founder/CEO, Le'Joyce Consulting,INC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Tyrone A. Williams, 33, M.W. King Solomon Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., New York, New York

The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Moderator, Metropolitan Community Churches, Sarasota, Florida

Jennifer Weidenbaum, Associate ED, Girls Incorporated of New York City

INDIVIDUALS

Rafael Abadia, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Shilda Albert, Brooklyn, NY

Beverly Alston, Harlem, New York

Michele Peake Andrasik, Seattle, WA

Nevita Bailey, New York, New York

Rhonda J. W. Bantsimba, Detroit, MI

Karen Bates, Columbia, SC

Monique Beasley, Huntsville, Al

Alicia Beatty, Philadelphia, PA

Paula Perry-Benjamin, Albany, NY

Farah Benoit, New York, New York

Lori Fridie Blake, St. Albans, New York

Anthony W Bolden, PLWHA

Dawn Breedon – Positive Women- Englewood, NJ

Triffany Starfolyfe Bridges, Memphis, TN

Hydeia Broadbent, Nevada, Las Vegas

Eric Brooks, New York, New York

Gina Brown, New Orleans, LA

Niasha Brown, Raleigh, NC

Shatoya Brown, Brooklyn, New York
Courtney Buchanan, Houston, TX
Christine Campbell, Washington, DC
Barb Cardell, Boulder, CO.
Connie Harper Castle, Harlem, New York
Bridgette Chapman, Brooklyn, New York
Donna Chapman, Buffalo, New York
Hadiyah Charles, New York, New York
Clarence W. Charles, Milwaukee, WI
S. Darlene Cheek, Harlem, New York
Yvette Coar, Harlem, New York
Jacqueline Coleman, M.Ed, MSM, Washington, DC
Pam Collins, Houston, TX
Carla Creech, Bronx, New York
Gloria Crowell, Oakland, CA
Rev. Damele Collier, Flatbush, Brooklyn, New York
Tione Chilambe, Boston, MA
Elizabeth Cabrera, Dallas, Texas
Penny DeNoble, Denver, CO.
Susannah DePalo, Staten Island, N.Y.
Sandra Diggins, Hephzibah, GA
Deloris Dockrey, MPH, New Brunswick, NJ
Lisa M Dukes, McKee's Rocks, Pa
Shalini Eddens, MPH, Oakland, CA
Soraya Elcock, Brooklyn, New York
Rev. Linda Samuels Ellerbe, Lawnside, NJ
Camille A. Abrahams Emeagwali, Brooklyn, New York
Christopher Ervin, Atlanta, GA
Lisa Fager, Washington, DC
Kim Cheatham Ferrell, Richmond, VA
Kerri-Anne Francis, Milwaukee, WI
Kevinia Francis, Miami, FL
Denise Miles-Francois, Washington, DC

Tracie M. Gardner, Brooklyn, NY
Michelle D. Patterson-Gay, Bronx, New York
Sonia Gonzalez, Brooklyn, NY
Chrissa Goodall, Trinity, TX
Ruby Gray, Jackson, MS
Kimberly Canady-Griffith, Brooklyn, New York
Angela L. Green, San Francisco, CA
Latorya R. Greene, Mishawaka, Indiana
Melissa Haithcox, Milwaukee, WI
Valeria McQueen Haywood, Paterson, NJ
Juliette Henry, Bronx, New York
Kymsha Henry, New York, New York
Solomon J. Herbert and Gloria M. Herbert, Winnetka, CA
Julieta P. Hernandez, LCSW, Miami, Florida
Wendi Hill, New York, New York
Ella Hines, RN, BSN, Houston, TX
Michelle Lynette Hines, Staten Island, NY
Nicole Harris- Hollingswoth, Mt Vernon, New York
Rene Holtzman, Lexington, MA
Ernest Hopkins, San Francisco, California
Bridget Hughes, MA, Oakland, CA
Jennifer Irwin, Brooklyn, NY
Precious Jackson, West Hollywood, CA
Loren Jones, pwn-usa/WORLD/policy co-chair, Oakland, CA
Dr. ChenziRa Davis Kahina, Frederiksted, St. Croix Virgin Islands
Naina Khanna, Oakland, CA USA
Navina Khanna, Oakland, CA
Brook Kelly, New York, New York
Rhonda Kimble, Richardson, TX
Nancy Kingwood, Bridgeport, CT
Lisa Koizal, Houston, TX
Sheila Lenk, Lake in the Hills, IL
Dawn G. Lewis, Rochester, New York, New York

Ebonie Jeter-Lewis, New York, New York
Trina Brown Lloyd, Wheatley Heights, New York
Michelle Lopez, Brooklyn, New York
Monica Madison, Brooklyn, New York
Oliver W. Martin, III, New York, New York
Shelia Matthews, Albany, NY
Vickie Maxwell, Houston, TX
Marylin Merida, Tampa, FL
Lude Lamor-Michel, Brooklyn, New York
Karen Miles, Chicago, Illinois
Olivia Nava, Oakland, CA
Peetie Newman, Akron, OH
Michelle Nicola, New York, New York
Laverne Patent, Albany, NY
Reagan Piechowski, River Forest, IL
Jonah Pierce, Raleigh, NC
Katina Polite, Bronx, New York
Marie E. Polite, Orange County, Middletown, NY
Babu Prince, Atlanta, GA
Nicole Prince, Atlanta, GA
Ashley Richardson, Houston, TX
Leo Rennie, Washington. DC
Lesley Rennis, MPH EdD, New York, New York
Alyssa Robillard, PhD, CHES Gilbert, Arizona
Kerry Roberts, Prince George, MD
Ms. Sandra J. Robinson, Bethesda, MD
Donna Ross, St Albans, New York
Aziz Saboor, Mableton, GA
Shenequa Sanders, Beaumont Texas
Linda H. Scruggs, Forestville, MD
Nicole Seguin, PLWH/A, Detroit, MI
Tiffany Simone, New York, New York
Sonja Simons, Bolivia, NC

Joanne Smith, Brooklyn, NY
Kimberleigh Smith, New York, NY
Litishia A. Smith, Richmond, VA
Tracey E. Smith, Philadelphia, PA
Odessa Spencer, Brooklyn, New York
Monica Swarez, Richmond, VA
Dolores Swirin, Brooklyn, NY
Sherri Taft, Harlem, New York
Deane Taylor, Chicago, IL
Sandra Taylor, Houston, Texas
Travis Thomas, New York, New York
Elizabeth Thompson, Atlanta, GA
David J. Tomlinson, Charlotte, NC
Chandra Tubbs, Houston, TX
Lauren Tullis, Kansas City, MO
Amana Turner, Houston, TX
Simone Anderson Van Tull, Rosedale, New York
Vallerie D Wagner, Los Angeles, CA
S. Wakefield, Seattle, WA
Desiree Warner, New York, New York
Debra Washington, Austin, TX
Almeta Whitis Rochester, NY
Debbi Willis, Syracuse, NY
Ashley Sherri Williams, Brooklyn, New York
Carrie Williams, Houston, TX
Tarsha Williams, Houston, TX
Gladys Wright, Taxpayer, Alexandria, Virginia
Deborah Yuelles, New York, New York
Maxine Young, Houston, TX
Sylvia Young, Oakland, CA

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your response to our request to appoint a black women openly living with HIV/AIDS to PACHA and welcome an audience with

you to discuss this matter further. Please feel free to contact Ivy Turnbull, Policy Chair or Barbara Joseph, Co-Chair at 1-888-812-0043 or at nbhwan@yahoo.com.

cc: Valerie B. Jarrett
Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for
Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement

Dr. Howard K. Koh
Assistant Secretary for Health, US Department of Health
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Christopher Bates
Executive Director, Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

Jeffrey Crowley
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy