

(Date)

## Sample Letter

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives / U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515 / 20510

### RE: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RYAN WHITE CARE ACT

Dear Congressman / Senator \_\_\_\_\_;

I am writing today to express my strong support for the swift reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. The Ryan White CARE Act is the core of this nation's AIDS care and treatment strategy in the United States – therefore, it is imperative that we ensure that the legislation reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act reflects the changing face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our nation today.

The Ryan White CARE Act is an invaluable source of coverage to those living with HIV/AIDS, specifically in the Black community. Today, over 50% of new HIV/AIDS infections are African Americans. At the end of 2002, more than 4 in 10 people living with AIDS in the United States were African American. **Nearly half (46%) of those who received services under the Ryan White Act in 2002 were African American.**

As a dedicated member of the NAACP, specifically, I am calling on you to support the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act with the following provisions to the reauthorization:

1. Problem proportional funding for existing and new Title III projects to provide high-quality, community-based primary care to low-income, underserved and underinsured populations living in rural and underserved areas;
2. Creation of an "Infrastructure and Capacity Expansion Program" to provide resources to assist community-based organizations in providing high-quality medical and supportive services to rural and urban communities serving underserved minority populations. Provision of these resources would build the organizational infrastructure and HIV service capacity in underserved communities;
3. Preservation and quadrupling of the Congressional Minority AIDS Initiative to address the development, implementation and provision of high quality care by indigenous, culturally competent organizations to underserved minority individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

I hope that we agree on the need for the Ryan White CARE Act funding to reflect the changing demographics of this epidemic. I also hope that you will contact me soon to let me know what I can do to help you see that this legislation gets reauthorized sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and address)

**Don't forget to contact  
your Representative and  
BOT H of your Senators**