



## San Francisco AIDS Foundation

995 Market Street, Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 487-3000

Dear Friend,

I'm writing to you because I believe you care about those who are less fortunate in our society.

That's why I'm asking you to join with me to help the most vulnerable among them: the women, men, and children battling HIV/AIDS who also live in poverty.

I'm sure you agree that nobody deserves to die or suffer needlessly because they can't afford basic medical care.

But that's exactly what will happen if the federal government continues to under-fund programs like Medicaid and the Ryan White CARE Act—programs which serve as lifelines for hundreds of thousands of people in this country living with HIV/AIDS.

And now, Congress is threatening to cut \$10 billion in health care programs for the poorest and sickest Americans.

That's not all. The Bush administration wants to take Ryan White CARE Act funding away from our nation's cities—where AIDS has hit the hardest.

That's why I'm asking you to take two actions today:

1. Sign the enclosed Citizen Petition—which urges our nation's leaders to make health care access for poor Americans a priority, and
2. Join the San Francisco AIDS Foundation with your gift of \$15, \$25, \$50, or any amount.

We'll use your gift to protect health care programs like Medicaid and the Ryan White CARE Act and to ensure access to medical care for thousands of impoverished Americans living with HIV/AIDS.

And your gift will help those who come through our doors with nowhere else to turn.

These are the people we help every day, at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

***End the pandemic and human suffering caused by HIV***

They come to us newly diagnosed with HIV and in need of urgent assistance...

They need help applying for Medicaid coverage, or a safe place to store their medications while they sleep in temporary shelters...

They call our statewide HIV/AIDS hotline looking for a test site in their rural community, an affordable AIDS clinic, or just someone to talk to...

They show up at our needle exchange sites, where they get medical attention, and information about drug counseling...

And they come in to find help when they're too ill to work, and can't pay their bills, or afford their HIV medications.

These are the people you can help with your gift to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation today.

Every day, thousands of women, children, and men die of AIDS worldwide. Many of these deaths could be prevented if adequate health care was available to all people.

In San Francisco alone, 11,000 people living with AIDS rely on government programs to help take care of their health care needs. Programs we can't afford to cut—like Medicaid, the Ryan White CARE Act, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

I know you agree that everyone deserves decent health care, especially those struggling with a chronic and potentially deadly illness.

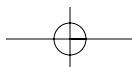
So please, sign the enclosed Citizen Petition and send your gift now to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mark Cloutier  
Executive Director

P.S. I know you care deeply about those who are less fortunate. Now you can help make a difference in their lives by joining the San Francisco AIDS Foundation with a gift of any amount today. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.



YES, I want to join with you, Mark, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to help those most vulnerable in our society. Please use my gift to protect health care for impoverished Americans living with HIV/AIDS and to provide compassionate care to those in need. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$15     \$25     \$50     \$\_\_\_\_\_



**San Francisco AIDS Foundation**  
995 Market Street, Suite 200  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
[www.sfaf.org](http://www.sfaf.org)

*Contributions to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation are tax-deductible. Thank you!*

*Please help pressure Congress to fully fund health care programs for the most vulnerable Americans. Sign the Citizen Petition below and return it along with your gift to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in the envelope provided. Thank you.*

## *Citizen Petition*

**WHEREAS** The Bush administration proposes to cut federal HIV funding to our nation's cities, where the epidemic has hit the hardest;

**WHEREAS** Despite steadily increasing numbers of people with HIV who depend on Medicaid and the Ryan White CARE Act for their health care, the current administration has flat funded or reduced funding to these critical programs for five straight years; and

**WHEREAS** Poor people in our country face an increasing health care crisis while our nation's leaders propose cuts rather than increasing under-funded programs;

**THEREFORE**, I urge the Senate Majority Leader and the House Speaker, along with other leaders in Congress, to

1. Supply new federal dollars to the Ryan White CARE Act to keep pace with the epidemic in urban and rural America—instead of shifting the problem from one part of the country to another;
2. Fully fund health care entitlement programs for our country's most impoverished and sickest citizens; and
3. Stop trying to balance the federal budget on the backs of poor and vulnerable Americans.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

