

News from



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PRESS STATEMENT OF

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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON AIDS REPORT: THE CHALLENGE OF HIV/AIDS  
IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1993

I am extremely gratified to have been asked to join with the National Commission on AIDS upon the release of their report, The Challenge of HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color. Through the years, I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. June Osborne and other commissioners in addressing this serious epidemic.

As confirmed by this report, HIV and AIDS are devastating communities of color. The National Commission on AIDS not only documents the far-reaching impact this epidemic has on these communities but lays down a course of action for our nation to respond.

For me, this report represents a significant accomplishment. As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Health Braintrust, for many years I have worked to ensure that the development of AIDS policy included a focus on the problems of HIV infection and minorities. In fact, this report contains several of the recommendations which are the direct result of approaches I have been advocating in Congress, and particularly on the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. My efforts were fueled by the knowledge that despite an infusion of billions of dollars to the AIDS epidemic, people of color have had little benefit from federal and congressional efforts in this area.

That is why the Commission's report is so critical to developing solutions to the problems of HIV/AIDS among persons of color. So often the special needs and circumstances of these individuals go unrecognized. The document released today acknowledges the seriousness of the problem and signifies the Commission's commitment to fight this disease in these communities.

In receiving the Commission's report, we must remember that to be successful in our fight we must have the full leadership and support from those who have influence over how much our nation responds. I commend Dr. Osborne and the Commission for the extraordinary work they have done in helping to lay the framework in our stand against HIV/AIDS. I look forward to working with the Commission as they promulgate their recommendations.

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