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## !!!!!!!!!!!!!! INJUSTICE ALERT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

“If this contract does not pass, 285 HIV-positive uninsured people won’t get the healthcare they need to stay alive.” – Councilmember Sandy Allen

“I will not in good conscience vote to deny health care to 285, to 100, or even to 5 people to avoid inconveniencing 700.” – Council Chair Linda Cropp

**The DC City Council, in a sad showing of poorly informed decision making, voted 9 to 4 to overturn the pharmacy network contract required to implement the HIV 1115 waiver. The real, immediate and negative results:**

- **285 Uninsured HIV Positive People Are Denied Medicaid Because of City Council’s Actions Today!**

This contract would have given these individuals full access to a complete continuum of care previously unavailable to them. For the first time, HIV positive individuals would have been covered at the point of diagnosis, instead of when they become very sick and disabled.

- **\$6 Million In Savings Down the Drain!**

DC had a \$300 million budget deficit last year and more budget gaps on the way this year. Yet, Council turns away from \$6 million in savings and an opportunity to provide more care for less money.

- **CMS Will Not Approve the 1115 HIV Waiver Without This Contract!**

In order to have the waiver approved by the federal government, DC had to show how it would cover people without additional costs over

the long term. We could only do that by creating a controlled pharmacy access program. We are among a very few states granted the opportunity to exercise this option for Medicaid coverage as a progressive model for policy.

- **The Waiver is Doomed!**

Council's action today virtually dooms the possibility of this waiver ever being implemented.

- **Five Years of Work Wasted!**

More than five year's hard work and frequent delays since waiver approval all go down the drain as a result of eleventh hour and misinformed political influencing from the big chain pharmacy community, most of whom do not serve the areas of DC with the highest number of low-income HIV positive individuals who would benefit from this program.

- **The ADAP Program Is Now In Danger!**

Today's vote endangers the long-term existence of the ADAP Program and close to 900 people will be in danger of losing their medications.

### **Kudos and thanks to the Council members who supported the contract implementation:**

Councilmember Sandy Allen for her strong leadership, her faithfulness in trying to move this waiver forward, and her passionate defense of the need for implementation on the dais today.

Council Chair Cropp, Councilmember Chavous, and Councilmember Mendelson for their support of this critical contract who took a stand despite the efforts of undue influence and false information.

## **Councilmembers Who Voted to Quash the Contract:**

**Jim Graham, Ward 1**

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**Jack Evans, Ward 2 (led the charge and introduced the challenge)**

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**Kathy Patterson, Ward 3 (co-sponsored the challenge)**

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**Adrian Fenty, Ward 4 (co-sponsored the challenge)**

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### **What Can You Do?**

- **Express Your Disappointment – Contact Councilmembers Today!**  
Let them know you are disappointed at their lack of informed decisionmaking.
- **Stress the Consequences of Their Actions!**  
Tell Councilmembers that their decision today, means 300 HIV positive patients miss their chance at health insurance and life-saving medications.
- **Request Reconsideration of Today's Actions**  
Let the Councilmembers know that they have put the lives of hundreds of HIV-positive individuals in jeopardy.