



Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition

## AIDS LIFE CAMPAIGN 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Restore \$2.5 million to the AIDS Service line in the DPH budget

- Over 30 Connecticut jobs will be lost.
- These dollars fund critically needed services for people living with HIV/AIDS including: doctor's visits, medications, meals, housing, dental care, transportation, mental health and substance use treatment, utility assistance, and insurance co-pays.
- If the cuts go through, we will be back to 1998 funding levels for AIDS services.
- The total number of PLWHA continues to rise and DPH estimates that approximately 18,000 people are infected in Connecticut, many of whom are unaware of their status.
- DPH has introduced legislation that will make it easier for doctors to test patients for HIV in routine medical settings, thereby identifying even more people with HIV/AIDS and bringing them into a system of care that will not be able to support them.
- The federal funds/Ryan White formula remains unchanged and **will not** restore the \$3.3 million that was lost in 2007. The Governor's cut will result in a punishing impact on AIDS services in CT.

### Support Changes to Streamline HIV Testing in Medical Settings

- In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended new guidelines promoting routine HIV testing in medical settings for people aged 13 – 64.
- Changes to the HIV testing statute include the removal of written informed consent and no requirement for pre- and post test counseling.
- Should patients not want an HIV test, they can opt out.

### Support the Healthy Teens Act

- The **Healthy Teens Act** will provide teens with the necessary skills to make safe and responsible choices surrounding their sexual health by promoting systematic and on-going, comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education programs in Connecticut's public schools.
- In 2009, the HTA will require the State of Connecticut to apply for any federal grants that become available to improve comprehensive school sex education.

The AIDS LIFE Campaign also supports the Reaching Home Campaign for supportive housing.

*Unless otherwise noted, statistics from the CT Dept. of Public Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Reports.*

- Since 1980, **19,132 people** in CT have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.
- **10,860 people** are reported living with HIV/AIDS in the state as of 12/30/2008.
- Nearly 20,000 people in CT are **estimated to be living with HIV**; 25% are unaware of their status.
- **14% of newly reported cases of HIV/AIDS** are under the **age of 29**.
- Proportionately, **Connecticut leads the nation** in the number of AIDS cases among injecting drug users; third in cases among women; and third in the nation in cases among Latinos/as. (*Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts*)

The AIDS LIFE Campaign is a committee of the sponsoring organization: CT AIDS Resource Coalition (CARC)

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