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MOBILIZATION AGAINST A.I.D.S.

PRESS RELEASE

For release Tuesday, February 25, 1986

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An Open Letter to San Francisco Congresswoman Barbara Boxer

Congresswoman Boxer:

As you are aware, the Mobilization Against AIDS is asking citizens in the counties of San Francisco and Marin to call or write you regarding increasing funding to fight AIDS to 500 million dollars next year. We are writing this open letter to formally articulate our reasons for this action. Our reasons are three fold:

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1. We must have massive increases in AIDS funding. Millions of Americans are already exposed to AIDS, and thousands more are being exposed every day. Preventive education programs are not in place around the country, research funding is inadequate, and treatment programs are so insufficient that tens of thousands of Americans are fleeing the nation to seek treatment. A "moon-shot" effort to stop AIDS by the Federal government is the only hope to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans. Because of this, we cannot compromise on this point.

2. You have held Congressional Hearings on AIDS, in San Francisco last year, and participated in many hearings on AIDS in Washington because of your role in the Sub-Committee on Intergovernmental Relations. Because of this and your willingness to devote the time of your staff to AIDS, you are certainly one of the most expert Members of Congress on the AIDS issue.

3. You are on the Congressional Budget Committee which is the committee which authorizes all federal spending and can increase AIDS funding. As you know, this is a committee controlled by Democrats and is the best hope of getting massive increases in AIDS funding. The Chair of the Committee and many of its members are strong supporters of adequate health care in America. Further, at least five Democrats and one Republican committee members consider themselves to be friends of the lesbian/gay community. The Chair of the Budget Committee, Rep. Gray, serves on the Steering
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Committee of the Philadelphia Lesbian/Gay Task Force. In short, the votes are there -- what is needed is leadership in the committee. Leadership you are uniquely able to provide.

Congresswoman Boxer, you understand both the enormous need for increased AIDS funding and the mechanisms of government. This AIDS expertise coupled with your membership on the Budget Committee makes you the single most obvious leader to fight for increased AIDS funding in the House of Representatives.

We believe that you are willing to fight for Mobilization Against AIDS' call for increasing AIDS funding to \$500 million if you thought it was a politically feasible goal which your constituents support. To that end we have begun contacting AIDS activists across the nation to obtain the support of other members of the Budget Committee.

We have also asked your constituents to call your offices and let you know that they would support you in such an action. We hope many voters follow our suggestion.

Congresswoman, in six weeks the Budget Committee will issue its recommendations. We urge you to lead the fight to insure that their proposal calls for increasing AIDS funding next year to five hundred million dol-

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lars.

For Mobilization,

Paul Boneberg, Coordinator

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For further information call one of the following:

Paul Boneberg (415) 431-4660

Ben Gardiner (415) 626-1245

BARBARA BOXER
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN,
YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

WHIP AT LARGE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 24, 1986

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Mobilization Against Aids
2120 Market Street, #106
San Francisco, California 94114

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding AIDS funding for FY 1987. From the beginning, I have been working to convince my colleagues of the severity of this health crisis and the budgetary response we must make. More must be spent next year to combat this epidemic.

As you may know, the responsibility of the Budget Committee, of which I am a member, is to outline federal spending in gross, aggregate amounts for areas such as health, entitlement programs, agriculture, etc. AIDS comes under health, and I have asked for a significant increase over what Congress appropriated last year for the AIDS category.

Specifically, I am pushing for more funds for: (a) expanded clinical trials of experimental drugs for people with AIDS and ARC; (b) expanded research and development of a vaccine; (c) expanded research into how the HTLV-III virus infects, replicates and ultimately destroys the immune system; and (d) how to provide more humane in-patient and out-patient medical care for people with AIDS and ARC.

I am advocating for these, along with the continued expansion of programs dealing with education, prevention and treatment, and I am hopeful that my colleagues will respond, despite the severe deficit crisis. Epidemics do not understand budget deficits, and this is a point I have tried to make over and over.

I share your sense of urgency and appreciate you informing me of your thoughts on this matter.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Boxer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Boxer
Member of Congress

BB/co

MOBILIZATION AGAINST AIDS

**2120 Market Street, Suite 106
San Francisco CA 94114
(415) 431-4660**

Open Letter to Congresswoman Boxer

Congresswoman Boxer:

Mobilization Against AIDS was dismayed to read your comments in the S. F. Sentinel indicating that you have already decided to compromise on necessary AIDS funding. Specifically, you stated that \$700 million dollars was a "reasonable" amount for the Federal Government to spend on AIDS in the next fiscal year, and that you would urge the House Budget to adopt this figure.

Congresswoman Boxer, your constituents desperately need you to fight for a maximum effort by the Federal Government to defeat AIDS. You know from the National Academy of Sciences Report, the Surgeon General's Report, the S.F. Dept. of Health's report, that such an effort cannot be waged for \$700 million dollars. It simply cannot be done. For you to publicly propose such a figure is to begin the battle for increasing AIDS funding with a compromise that makes obtaining a "moon-shot effort" to defeat AIDS from the Federal Government impossible.

Congresswoman, consider this analogy. An earthquake strikes San Francisco, killing thousands, wounding tens of thousands, and threatening to destroy the health apparatus of the city without massive federal assistance. The medical leadership of the nation strongly recommends specific immediate actions but the Administration is willing to only recommend minimal funding. Would you not go to the House Budget Committee and to the House Floor to fight for whatever funding was necessary to save the lives of your constituents? Would you not fight for the funds which were needed no matter how difficult the political battle to obtain them might be? That is the kind of leadership we need now in the face of the AIDS catastrophe which has struck our city, not compromise with a President who is obviously telling us to "drop dead."

Mobilization Against AIDS urges you to push for a federal appropriations on AIDS of over two billion dollars in the next fiscal year. Like the National Academy of Sciences we urge one billion for AIDS education and at least one billion for research. The one billion dollars for education should be used to wage a campaign similar to that under way in Great Britain, i.e. direct mail pieces to every household, business and school, prime time television and radio advertisement, and print advertisements as well. In addition, many thousands of small group educational efforts such as San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project need to be begun around the nation. In terms of AIDS research the government should simply fund every AIDS research project which is approved by the National Institutes of Health as scientifically valid. This would exceed one billion dollars. Of course two billion dollars seem like an impossibly large amount of money. But when Mobilization began fighting for 500 million dollars in AIDS funding last year we were told that it was unobtainable, but in the end we came far closer than anyone thought possible.

Congresswoman Boxer, we recognize you as one of the leading champions

of increased AIDS funding, particularly in your role as a member of the House Budget Committee. Your recent "Dear Colleague" letter on AIDS is just one example of your excellent work. But your proposal for 700 million dollars is hopelessly inadequate. We realize that the staff time you are able to devote to AIDS, despite the high quality of your staff, is limited. Perhaps this is why your first proposal for AIDS funding was so shockingly low. We urge you to immediately meet with the AIDS activists in your district to redefine your AIDS agenda for next year. For our part we will submit to you a detailed plan of proposed Federal action on AIDS for 1987. Further, we will conduct a campaign to have your constituents let you know of their support for massive increases in federal funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Boneberg
Coordinator
Mobilization Against AIDS

Barbara Boxer

Member of Congress

November, 1990

Rep. Barbara Boxer
Chair, Human Resources Task Force
House Budget Committee



Dear Friends,

Writing letters to your elected officials works!

As Chair of the Human Resource Task Force of the House Budget Committee and past Chair of the AIDS Task Force I've certainly been lobbied often. The voices I pay closest attention to are the voices of the voters - so letters from constituents are very influential.

In my office and in most Congressional offices, every single letter is important and is responded to by me or my staff. If my office receives twenty-five, fifty or more letters on a single topic, it is brought to my immediate attention.

Your letters provide vital information for which there is no substitute. I urge you to participate in the crucial efforts of the Mobilization Against AIDS Lobby Team.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature of Barbara Boxer in dark ink.

Barbara Boxer

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Barbara Boxer

Member of Congress

November, 1990

Rep. Barbara Boxer
Chair, Human Resources Task Force
House Budget Committee



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