



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
February 1, 2006

Lifelong AIDS Alliance Responds to the State of the Union Address “Reauthorize and Fully Fund the Ryan White CARE Act”

Seattle, WA—February 1, 2006—Lifelong AIDS Alliance today released the following statement in response to President Bush’s State of the Union address:

“Lifelong AIDS Alliance commends President Bush for urging Congress to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act, and advises Congress and the Administration to immediately reauthorize a Ryan White CARE Act which fully funds vital support services including case management, nutritional services, and housing.

The Ryan White CARE Act must not exclusively fund doctor’s visits and medications. It must provide a comprehensive approach to prevention, care, and treatment of people impacted by the HIV/AIDS crisis. In addition to a fully funded Ryan White CARE Act, a comprehensive approach to care and treatment must insure that Medicare and Medicaid remain fully funded to support our nation’s most vulnerable. More than 85% percent of Lifelong’s clients live on less than \$15,000 a year and desperately need the safety net provided by an effective Medicare/Medicaid system.

Lifelong AIDS Alliance also advocates expanding HIV prevention methods we know work, including comprehensive sexuality education, not just abstinence education.

Lifelong applauds the President for advocating rapid HIV tests through African-American churches and faith based organizations. Since rapid testing will lead to more people knowing their HIV status and needing services, Lifelong also urges the President and Congress to increase funding to community-based organizations which directly serve

those living with HIV/AIDS. If African-American churches and faith based organizations work in partnership with other community based organizations to deliver prevention messages, rapid testing, follow-up counseling, and comprehensive treatment and care, we will greatly reduce the sadly continuing stigma around HIV/AIDS.

With the President's support, we look forward to working with Congress and the Administration to carry out a rapid reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.”

About Lifelong AIDS Alliance

Lifelong AIDS Alliance provides food, housing and health insurance to people living with HIV/AIDS in King County. Lifelong also provides prevention education and is a leader in local, regional and national advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS. Lifelong AIDS Alliance is the leading AIDS service organization in the Pacific Northwest and is recognized nationally for its innovative work.

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