



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

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FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 9/11/01

August 31, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

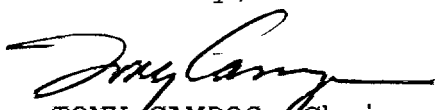
RE: STATE FUNDING FOR HIV EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from the HIV Services Consortium of Santa Cruz County advising the Board that the Governor has reduced funding for HIV Education and Prevention services by \$4 million in the 2001-02 State budget. This translates to a direct **loss** of funding in the amount **of** \$45,000 for the County **of** Santa Cruz. Pursuant to discussions with the Consortium, the intent of the Consortium's letter is to urge the Board to lend our support **to** efforts to have this funding restored in the State budget.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board direct the Chairman to write to the Governor, and to the County's legislative delegation, urging that every effort be made to restore State funding in fiscal year 2001-02 for critically needed HIV Education and Prevention efforts in Santa Cruz County and throughout the State.

Sincerely,


TONY CAMPOS, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

TC:ted
Attachment

cc: HIV Services Consortium
Diana Bontà, Director, State Department of Health Services
Rama Khalsa, Health Services Agency Administrator
David McNutt, M.D., Santa Cruz County Health Officer
Betsy McCarty, Chief of Public Health
Pat Ellerby, Senior Health Services Manager



County of Santa Cruz

0092

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

(831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: (831) 454-4123

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

August 17, 2001

Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Board Members:

We are writing on behalf of the Santa Cruz County HIV Services Consortium to express our deep concern that Governor Davis has reduced funding for HIV Education and Prevention services by \$4 million dollars in the fiscal year 2001- 2002 State budget. To our knowledge, this is the first time a California Governor has cut HIV Education and Prevention funding regardless of his/her political affiliation.

The HIV Services Consortium of Santa Cruz County was established to ensure that quality prevention, testing, and care services are provided to those affected by HIV disease. The Consortium serves as an advocate for all persons at risk of HIV infection or infected with HIV disease and strives to create a community where no new transmission of HIV occurs. Consortium members reflect those affected and infected by HIV, prevention and care providers, governmental agencies, and community activists. The single most important fact about HIV prevention is that it is the only strategy that absolutely works. Anti-HIV medications hold the disease at bay and allow HIV-infected individuals a semblance of normal life, but they are not cures. The rate of treatment failure and serious side effects from the medications are increasing. Additionally, a vaccine is still years away. HIV education and prevention remain the most cost effective means to protect the health and well being of those with or at risk for HIV infection. In recent months, counties throughout California have reported alarming evidence of increases in new cases of HIV infection among young gay and bisexual men, women, and minorities. This is not the time to scale back on our HIV prevention programs. It costs the State far less to prevent a new HIV infection than it does to pay for HIV medications and support services. It is critically important to maintain existing, effective prevention programs in communities already hard-hit by the epidemic, while at the same time, expanding education and prevention programs to communities and geographic areas in which the epidemic is expanding.

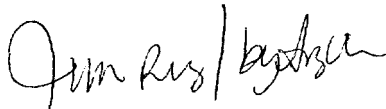
This year marked the 20th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic. For twenty years, we have been living with the tragic consequences of this devastating disease, which has taken the lives of over 70,000 Californians. During this time, California has established itself as a national leader in the science of HIV prevention. We know that education and prevention works. We urge you to restore HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention funds and help save lives.

0093

Sincerely,



Michelle Lewis, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Santa Cruz AIDS Project
HIV Consortium Co-chair



Jim Ruiz
HIV Consortium Co-chair

CC: Diana Bonta – Director of State Department of Health Services
David McNutt, M.D., Santa Cruz County Health Officer
Betsy McCarty, R.N., M.S. Chief of Public Health for the County of Santa Cruz
Rama Khalsa, Ph.D., Health Services Agency Administrator for the County of Santa Cruz
Pat Ellerby, MPH, **MPA**, Senior Health Services Manager

JR & ML/as