
National Conclave on HIV/AIDS Policy for Black Clergy

National HIV/AIDS Elimination Act

- The National Conclave on HIV/AIDS Policy for Black Clergy, convened by the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, calls upon the President, Congress and Corporate America to declare the HIV/AIDS crisis in the African American community a “public health emergency.” We call on the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use his emergency authority to redirect resources to address this emergency.
- We believe the United States should develop a National AIDS Plan to address the treatment, care, prevention, research, and supportive service needs of Americans living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS.
- We believe that an integral component of any National AIDS Plan should be targeted legislation that specifically addresses the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on the African Americans. Therefore we call on Congress and the Administration to endorse and pass the National HIV/AIDS Elimination Act—legislation that will mobilize action across-departments of government, and coordinate programs and funding across the various agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Act will include measurable goals, timetables, and specific objectives designed to eliminate the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As a part of the National AIDS Plan, the Elimination Act will highlight and address the key structural drivers of the AIDS epidemic like poverty, low-literacy, stigma, unemployment, incarceration, racial disparities, and other structural drivers of the epidemic in the United States.
- The Elimination Act will establish an Institute to document the historical treatment of African Americans and its impact on the issues that have evolved and must be addressed. All agencies of the government should be involved in making this a priority.
- We endorse HR 1943 Stop AIDS in Prison Act (sponsored by Congress Woman Maxine Waters, (D-Los Angeles), that requires routine HIV testing upon entry and exit, counseling and HIV/AIDS treatment for federal inmates when medically indicated and linkage to care upon discharge.

