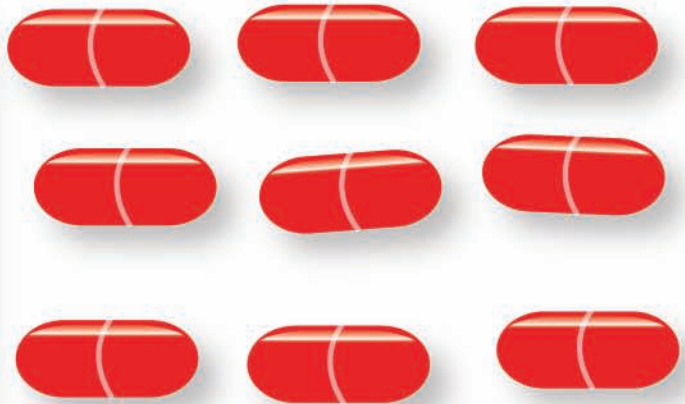
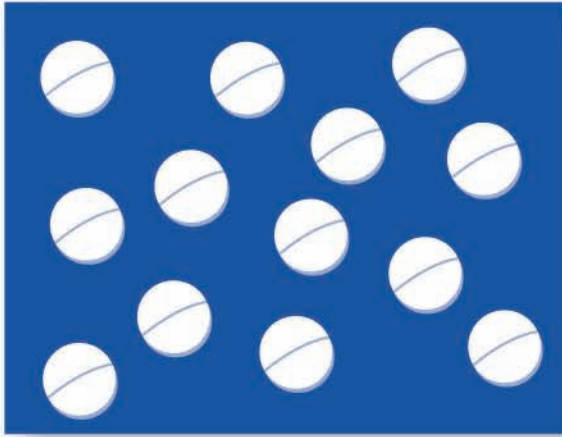


Where Do They Stand?

The Gay Men's Health Crisis Report on the 2008 Presidential Candidates and HIV/AIDS



By Daryl J. Cochrane, MPA and Kristin D. Goodwin, MSW

GMHC
GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

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THE GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS REPORT ON THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND HIV/AIDS

By Daryl J. Cochran and Kristin D. Goodwin

INTRODUCTION

2008 is a pivotal year in American politics. For the first time since before the Depression, a sitting Vice President is not actively seeking the presidency. There is a wide open field of 16 candidates from both major parties vying for the nomination.

Many voters care deeply about the epidemic of our lifetime, HIV/AIDS. Since its discovery over a quarter century ago, HIV/AIDS has killed over half a million Americans and infected at least 1.5 million in total. Worldwide, 33 million people are living with HIV or AIDS, with more than half of these in sub-Saharan Africa; 2.5 million were newly infected around the world in just in the past year.ⁱ

The United States' response to the AIDS epidemic has been hampered by ideology-based rather than science-based approaches to prevent the further spread of HIV. Prevention efforts have been complicated by needless audits of AIDS service organizations and the decision to place ideology above science. Anti-gay, sexist, and inaccurate abstinence-only-until-marriage programs have been promoted over comprehensive sex education. Restrictions on syringe exchange have also interfered with effective and scientifically-proven prevention strategies. Globally, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Resources (PEPFAR) has channeled \$30 billion of aid for HIV/AIDS treatment and care in Africa and other parts of the world. However, HIV prevention efforts are complicated by language requiring that one-third of prevention dollars be reserved for abstinence-only-until-marriage, and by the requirement that aid recipients pledge to oppose prostitution.

Under the Bush-Cheney Administration, HIV has continued to spread unabated, with at least 40,000 new infections per year. In the United States it is estimated that one quarter of Americans who have HIV do not know it. Many are diagnosed too late to benefit from early medical care. Half of Americans living with HIV/AIDS do not receive regular HIV-related care, and half of those who are eligible for antiretroviral treatment do not receive this treatment.ⁱⁱ Lack of access to treatment and care is even more pronounced in Africa and other parts of the world, where even basic pain relief medications are not available to millions of sick and dying people.

Black Americans are particularly hard hit by HIV. Although only 12% of the U.S. population, blacks comprise 51% of new infections reported since 2001.ⁱⁱⁱ Gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to be hard hit, comprising 72% of new infections among male adults and adolescents in 2005, even though only about 5 to 7% of male adults and adolescents identify as MSM.^{iv} Half a million MSM have been infected, and 300,000 have died from AIDS. Latinos and Native Americans are also disproportionately at risk for HIV, as are youth and women of color.^v AIDS is the leading cause of death for Black women age 25–34, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

In summer 2007, Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and AIDSvote.org—a candidate and voter education project—sent a Presidential Candidates Questionnaire to each of the candidates vying for the Democratic or Republican Party nomination for president. The questionnaire consisted of 19 questions on domestic and global HIV/AIDS policies. Copies were sent electronically and via U.S. post after confirming, via phone and email, who was the key HIV/AIDS policy person working for each campaign. Candidates were given several weeks to complete the survey, and many follow-up calls and emails were placed to encourage participation and confirm receipt of the questionnaire. Of the 16 major party candidates still in contention as of publication in November 2007—eight Democrats and eight Republicans—only six completed and returned the questionnaire.

The six Democrats who responded were Senator Joe Biden, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Senator John Edwards, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Senator Barack Obama, and Governor Bill Richardson. Senator Christopher Dodd and former Senator Mike Gravel did not complete the questionnaire.

Not a single Republican candidate completed the questionnaire. It is disappointing that no Republican candidate would take the time or effort to answer questions about the epidemic of our lifetime, which has claimed half a million lives at home and millions more abroad, and will continue to claim many millions more before it is finally eradicated.

In addition to examining responses to the questionnaire, Gay Men's Health Crisis staff and interns analyzed voting records, news articles, campaign websites, and debate transcripts to determine where candidates stand on HIV/AIDS issues. Thirteen of the sixteen candidates have experience in Congress. A vast breadth of voting records and legislative co-sponsorships were examined through sources such as the Congressional Record. Other information was gathered from candidates' records in State Houses or in City Hall. Public statements about HIV and LGBT equality were also examined through the use of LexisNexis® and other data bases.

There are still many questions that need answers, but the following pages should provide you with information you can take to the voting booth in November 2008.

The difference between the Democratic presidential candidates, on the one hand, and the Republican field is striking. All eight Democrats support comprehensive sex education, whereas seven of the eight Republicans oppose comprehensive sex education. Seven Democrats, including frontrunners Clinton, Edwards, and Obama, have gone on the record in support of syringe exchange as a proven prevention tool. No Republican has done so. Five Democrats support lifting the ban on HIV-positive travelers and immigrants from entering the United States. Most Republicans either oppose lifting the ban or have not made their position clear. Former Governor Mitt Romney, however, said in 1994 that he supported allowing HIV-positive immigrants into the U.S. if they could pay for their own health care costs.

Five candidates—Clinton, Edwards, Kucinich, Obama and Richardson—have committed to creating and implementing a national AIDS strategy early in the first term of their presidency. Edwards and Obama have also issued more details on what their strategies would entail. No Republican candidate has issued an AIDS strategy or has committed to doing so.

Seven of the eight Democratic candidates have committed to removing abstinence-only-until-marriage restrictions from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through which the U.S. has distributed \$30 billion in Africa, Asia and Latin America over the past half decade. They have also committed to increasing funding for HIV prevention and AIDS

treatment and care around the world. No Republican candidate has firmly committed to these key goals promoted by numerous HIV/AIDS advocates. Seven candidates—all Democrats—have committed to investing \$50 billion to fight HIV/AIDS globally.

While this report focuses primarily on HIV/AIDS, Gay Men's Health Crisis also understands that equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans through nondiscrimination policies and equitable family recognition is also related to people's health and well-being. Anti-gay stigma is a key factor in HIV risk behavior. When a government makes one a second-class citizen, this affects one's self-esteem and can deleteriously impact one's mental and physical health. States that deny same-sex partners health coverage make it harder for gay people to take care of their health.

The eight Democratic candidates are united in support of employment nondiscrimination laws covering sexual orientation and gender identity. Two of the eight Democrats support full marriage equality for same-sex couples, while all eight support civil unions, which provide a separate but equal form of benefits at the state level. The eight Republican contenders oppose nondiscrimination laws, same-sex marriage and civil unions. Candidates Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani recently held much more liberal positions on gay equality, but have moved to the right on social issues as they have courted Christian right voters in the Republican primaries.

The Democrats

Seven of the eight Democrats support syringe exchange programs to reduce the rate of HIV transmission among injection drug users. These seven include the three front-runners according to the polls in 2007: Clinton, Edwards, and Obama. This evidence-based position has been persistently denigrated by the Bush-Cheney Administration. Syringe exchange is among the most effective prevention tools, proven to reduce HIV transmission among injection drug users by as much as eighty percent.

Another important area of difference between most of the Democrats and the current administration is the ban on HIV-positive travelers and immigrants from entering the U.S. Five of the Democratic candidates have definitively said they would support lifting the entry ban—Senators Dodd, Edwards, and Obama, Congressman Kucinich, and Governor Richardson. Senator Clinton said public health officials, not Congress, should make such determinations, but did not endorse lifting the entry ban.

Every Democratic candidate supports comprehensive sex education and a willingness to implement prevention strategies regarding sexual behavior that are based in science and not ideology. Three candidates—Edwards, Kucinich, and Obama—said that they wanted to end federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The other three candidates who completed the survey—Biden, Clinton, and Richardson—did not take a clear position on federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage. For seven years the Bush-Cheney Administration has promoted abstinence-only-until-marriage policies that have proven ineffective to reduce the transmission of HIV, other sexually transmitted infections, and unwanted pregnancies.

Another area of agreement among the Democratic candidates is funding for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. Each Democrat has vowed to increase funding for the CARE Act, our nation's largest funding source for the treatment and care of people living with HIV and AIDS domestically.

The Republicans

Despite combing through a considerable amount of data, much still remains unknown about the Republican candidates' stance on HIV/AIDS issues. Congressman Ron Paul has shown through his voting record that he supports the Early Treatment for HIV Act, known as ETHA. This bill would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements to allow poor, HIV-positive, yet asymptomatic individuals to gain access to Medicaid benefits. No other Republican is known to support that measure, which has been before Congress for much of this decade. Two Republicans have voted for passage of the Ryan White CARE Act, the largest domestic source of funding for treatment and care.

Two leading Republican candidates have particularly complex records on HIV/AIDS and LGBT civil rights. In 1989, 1993, and 1997 Rudy Giuliani ran for mayor of New York City. In 1994 Mitt Romney ran for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Ted Kennedy and later ran for Governor of Massachusetts in 2002. In apparent attempts to appeal to traditionally more liberal Democratic voters, Giuliani and Romney tacked to the left on a number of social issues, including HIV/AIDS issues and LGBT equality.

In 1994 Romney portrayed himself as an ardent proponent of sexual orientation employment nondiscrimination laws, and even advocated for expanding such laws to include housing and credit. He said gay people should be allowed to serve openly in the military. Romney also expressed support for lifting the immigration and travel ban for some HIV-positive immigrants. Romney and Giuliani have since both made tremendous overtures to the religious right wing of the Republican Party and have taken positions in stark contrast to those they previously held, even less than a decade ago.

Both Romney and Giuliani oversaw extensive needle exchange programs in their state and city respectively.^{vi} However, Giuliani made clear his opposition to needle exchange, helping to suppress a report urging an expansion of needle exchange programs in New York City.^{vii} Romney vetoed a bill that legalized over-the-counter needle sales without a doctor's prescription, something 47 other states allowed at the time.^{viii}

Overall, the Republican candidates do not address emerging issues and new technologies directly, such as AIDS in our federal prisons and the development of microbicides. Further, none of them has committed to creating and implementing a national AIDS strategy, something the United States requires foreign recipients of AIDS relief funds to create, and which would be the only true way to address AIDS as a domestic crisis.

THE ISSUES

As the first AIDS organization in the world, GMHC has led the fight to meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and prevent infection among those at greatest risk of contracting the disease. We believe in a core set of values to end this disease.

A National AIDS Strategy

It is time for the candidates campaigning for President to take this disease seriously and to develop a comprehensive national strategy to cope with the epidemic and bring it to an end once and for all. It is hypocritical for the United States to require nations who receive money for HIV/AIDS relief to devise a strategy to end HIV/AIDS in their countries when the U.S. does not have such a strategy itself.

Gay Men's Health Crisis calls upon every candidate to develop a comprehensive national strategy to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, both at home and abroad. Money is but a part of that plan. Sound evidence-based policies are another part. The third requirement is the courage and conviction to implement this plan by harnessing the powers of government and of industry to bring an end, once and for all, to the scourge of our lifetime.^{ix}

HIV Prevention

Preventing people from contracting HIV in the first place is the best way to stem the tide of the disease and ensure its diminished impact on the nation and globally. By focusing predominantly on treatment, we will not be able to keep pace with the disease. We must focus on preventing the spread of HIV. Currently only 4 percent of the federal budget dedicated to HIV and AIDS goes to prevention efforts. That is a deplorable percentage. We cannot continue funding at such low levels if we ever hope to eradicate domestic HIV/AIDS.

For the past eight years, the Bush-Cheney Administration has focused its prevention efforts in areas that have been scientifically proven not to be effective. Millions of U.S. tax dollars have gone to fund abstinence-only-until-marriage programming that we know does not work. Study after study, including many commissioned by our own government, has shown abstinence-only-until-marriage education does not delay the onset of sexual intercourse.^x Abstinence-only-until-marriage also serves to promote outdated gender stereotypes, anti-gay bias, and ignorance about HIV and AIDS. It is clear that comprehensive sex education and the widespread availability of condoms is the only way to ensure that our nation's youth learn about healthy sexual behaviors, which will help prevent them from becoming infected with HIV or any other sexually transmitted infections.^{xi}

We must also utilize evidence-based methodologies when addressing HIV infection among injection drug users. Providing clean needles to intravenous drugs users has proven effective, dropping infection rates by 40 percent in Rhode Island from 2000 to 2004 and by 78 percent in New York City from 1990 to 2002.^{xii} This has occurred without the increase of drug use or crime associated with use. We cannot continue as a nation to bury our heads in the sand and ignore this effective prevention tool.

Targeted prevention must be utilized in the communities most at risk for infection, particularly men who have sex with men, people of color, women, youth, substance users, and low-income Americans.^{xiii} Each group is disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS and we as a society must step up our efforts to reach these vulnerable populations. We endorse the recommendations made by Dr. Robert Fullilove and the National Minority AIDS Council in 2006 to address the "root causes" of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among black people, including addressing the lack of affordable housing, intolerable levels of poverty and unemployment, and the impact of incarceration.^{xiv}

HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care

In a period of unprecedented deficit spending, it is important to note that money spent on prevention will pay for itself through savings in medical care. If people living with HIV are able to get into care sooner, and people who are HIV-negative stay HIV-negative, this country will save billions of dollars in medical costs that currently go to acute emergency medical treatment, draining our federal healthcare system.

By expanding the core HIV/AIDS treatment and supportive services program, the Ryan White CARE Act, we as a nation must provide better care for people living with HIV/AIDS. Further, by setting priorities in the areas of housing assistance (the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS Act) and prescription drug assistance (the AIDS Drug Assistance Program), and by

reforming the Medicaid/Medicare system by expanding eligibility, we can help thousands of people slow their progression from HIV to AIDS.

Unfortunately, during the latest Ryan White re-authorization in 2006, Congress, in an attempt to redistribute Ryan White funding, cut funding to a number of Title I and Title II jurisdictions that continue to be at the center of the epidemic. New York was particularly hard hit, losing nearly \$3 million in Minority AIDS Initiative funds and more than \$10 million overall in Ryan White funds. This battle clearly demonstrates the need to expand the pie for treatment funding, rather than divide the pie into even smaller pieces.

Cure

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged the nation to put a man on the moon by the decade's end. That unlikely vision was realized in the summer of 1969. We are in desperate need of a similar challenge by a courageous new president who is dedicated to pushing scientists to create a preventative and therapeutic vaccine in order to provide resources to eradicate HIV and AIDS. Because the HIV virus is so complex, other biomedical advances must be encouraged and resourced, such as vaginal and rectal microbicides, and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

We must fight to provide resources to keep HIV-negative people negative and HIV-positive people healthy. We must also continue searching for a cure to this epidemic to ensure that future generations will only learn about AIDS in a history book.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

In the following pages you will find positions each of the candidates has taken on public policy issues related to HIV/AIDS. A grid provides a quick overview of the Democrats' and Republicans' known positions on nearly two dozen key policy issues. Then, each candidate's record is examined in greater detail on a variety of domestic and global AIDS issues, and responses to our questionnaire are provided, when available. Finally, an appendix provides more detail on key legislation we examined, such as the Early Treatment of HIV Act and the Microbicides Development Act.

GMHC is not endorsing any particular candidate, but we hope to provide the American electorate with pertinent information on each of the candidate's positions on HIV and AIDS. We hope that this better informs voters on the stances the candidates have taken on these issues that are vital to our nation's health, as well as a critical factor in global security.

Now that AIDS is over a quarter century old, we must look ahead and see how we can best respond in the next quarter century. What have we learned and what can we do going forward to ensure this disease's end?

We not only hope to better inform you of the choice you will make come November 2008, but also to better inform the candidates themselves as they seek to tackle the pressing issues of our time. It is our desire that whoever occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue come January 20, 2009, that he or she will take a renewed interest as a President and seek to stop the spread of AIDS at home and abroad.

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- ^{vii} *New York AIDS Issues Update*, January 23, 1998, www.housingworks.org.
- ^{viii} Reilly, 2005.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gay Men's Health Crisis wishes to thank all of those who contributed to the creation of this report.

Particular thanks to AIDSvote.org, a coalition of AIDS organizations that submitted questionnaires to all of the presidential candidates—The AIDS Institute, ACT-UP Philadelphia, African Services Committee, AIDS Action Council, AIDS Action in Mississippi, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, AIDS Project of Central Iowa, Des Moines, AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region (New Hampshire), AIDS Services of Dallas, AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), American Medical Student Association (Iowa Chapter), Campaign to End AIDS, Chicago Foundation for Women, CitiWide Harm Reduction (Bronx, NY), Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), Community HIV/Hepatitis Advocates of Iowa Network (CHAIN), DC Fights Back, Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), Global AIDS Alliance, Housing Works, Iowans for AIDS Action, LifeGuard (LeClair, Iowa), Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities, Iowa, National AIDS Housing Coalition, National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors, National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA), National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Ohio AIDS Coalition, Positive Iowans Taking Charge (PITCH), RESULTS (Iowa Chapter), Sexuality Education and Information Council of the U.S. (SEICUS), Solidarités Enfants Sida, South Carolina C2EA, Bishop Philip Hougen/Southeastern Iowa Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church, Student Global AIDS Campaign, Washington Heights Corner Project (NY, NY) (list in formation).

Editors & Reviewers:

Michael Kink, Housing Works; David Ernesto Munar, AIDSvote.org; Dustin Watson and Brian Smith, M & R Strategic Services; Robert Bank, Sean Cahill, Alexandra Rimmel, and Janet Weinberg of GMHC.

Research:

Daryl Cochrane, Kristin Goodwin, and GMHC interns Ellen Adams, Lauren Jones, and Benjamin Stewart.

Layout & Design:

Adam Fredericks and Brian Toyne of GMHC and Steven Mattson Hayhurst of VensonHurst.

Additional gratitude to Noel Alicea, Cornelia Jarvis, Darryl Ng, and Nancy Ordober.

Special thanks to Sean Cahill, Managing Director of Public Policy, Research, and Community Health, for all of his efforts in helping create this study.

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For over four years, Daryl served as the HIV/AIDS and LGBT community liaison for United States Congressman Jerrold Nadler of New York's 8th Congressional District. He also has served on the Board of Governors of the Human Rights Campaign. During his tenure at the Academy for Education Development, Daryl represented the organization at National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA) meetings. In 1998, Daryl served as co-chair of the Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC. While interning for U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) in 1993, Daryl performed research for legislation later known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Daryl has volunteered for numerous political campaigns on the federal, state, and local level.

Daryl received his B.A. from American University in 1995, with an interdisciplinary major in communications, law, economics, and government. He received his Masters of Public Administration in public and nonprofit management and policy in 2000 from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

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Kristin D. Goodwin, MSW

Kristin Goodwin is the community organizer for the Gay Men's Health Crisis Action Center, which seeks to engage clients in political action campaigns around HIV/AIDS policy at the city, state and federal level.

As an MSW intern in 2005, Kristin worked with the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies to provide technical assistance and build capacity among small community-based organizations in the South Bronx, New York pursuing HIV/AIDS outreach and education. In 2006, she worked in Queensbridge Houses in Long Island City, New York, designing youth outreach programs for HIV and sexual health education. Prior to her graduate studies, she worked in community development in Akron, Ohio, where she developed programs for inner-city youth and organized neighborhoods around affordable housing.

Kristin graduated with a B.A. in sociology from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1999. Kristin received her Masters of Social Work in 2007 from City University of New York–Hunter College School of Social Work, where she studied social work and community organization and planning.

Kristin, a native of northeast Ohio, resides in the Astoria section of Queens.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

THE ISSUES EXPLAINED

National AIDS Strategy—Committed to creating and implementing a national strategy.

Early Treatment for HIV Act—Supports passage of federal legislation that would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.

Microbicide Development Act—Supports passage of federal legislation that would streamline research and development among federal agencies and increase funding for a new class of HIV prevention products.

Comprehensive sex education—Supports passage of federal legislation that would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.

Abstinence-only-until-marriage—Supports an end to federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

Prison health—Supports passage of federal legislation that would allow condom distribution in federal prisons, as well as increase HIV testing and mandate proper care, while maintaining confidentiality.

Syringe exchange—Supports federal legislation to lift the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange programs.

Ryan White CARE Act—Supports increased funding for the nation's largest source of HIV/AIDS treatment and care.

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)—Supports increased funding for AIDS housing services.

Global AIDS epidemic—Supports increased funding for President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), as well as a non abstinence-only based approach to global prevention.

Signed the "Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty."—Vowed to commit \$50 billion to AIDS and establish evidence-based prevention worldwide.

Debt cancellation and patent licensing reform—Supports urging the International Monetary Fund to cancel 100% of the debt to the most impoverished nations and further supports lifting patent restrictions to allow medications developed by the U.S. reach developing nations.

Repeal of HIV entry ban—Supports lifting the ban on HIV-positive immigrants and travelers from entering the United States.

Employment non-discrimination—Supports federal legislation to prohibit discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Marriage equality—Supports civil marriage equality for same-sex couples.

Civil unions—Supports civil unions for same-sex couples, but not full marriage equality.

Human Rights Campaign legislative scorecard average—Rating from the largest LGBT political organization on LGBT issues for those candidates who served in Congress.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

| DEMOCRATS | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---------|------|---------|--------|----------|-------|------------|
| | Biden | Clinton | Dodd | Edwards | Gravel | Kucinich | Obama | Richardson |
| National AIDS Strategy | ↓ | ↑ | ↓ | ↑ | ↓ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Microbicide Development Act | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Comprehensive Sex Education | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Ending funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage | ? | ? | ? | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ? |
| Prison HIV Prevention | ? | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Syringe exchange | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Ryan White CARE Act | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) | ↑ | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ↔ |
| President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Signed the "Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty" | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↓ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Debt cancellation and patent licensing reform | ? | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ? | ? | ↑ | ↑ |
| Repeal of HIV entry ban | ↓ | ↔ | ↑ | ↑ | ? | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Marriage equality | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↑ | ↑ | ↓ | ↓ |
| Civil unions | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Human Rights Campaign legislative scorecard average | 84 | 92 | 92 | 79 | N/A | 100 | 89 | 88 |

KEY: ↑ Supports ↓ Opposes ↔ Mixed position ? Position unclear or not articulated

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

| REPUBLICANS | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|--------|--------|------|--------|----------|----------|
| | Giuliani | Huckabee | Hunter | McCain | Paul | Romney | Tancredo | Thompson |
| National AIDS Strategy | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) | ? | ? | ↓ | ↓ | ↑ | ? | ↓ | ↓ |
| Microbicide Development Act | ? | ? | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ? | ↓ | ? |
| Comprehensive Sex Education | ↔ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| Ending funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| Prison HIV Prevention | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ↑ | ? | ? |
| Syringe exchange | ? | ? | ↓ | ? | ↔ | ↓ | ↓ | ? |
| Ryan White CARE Act | ? | ? | ? | ↔ | ? | ? | ? | ↓ |
| Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) | ↓ | ? | ↓ | ? | ↓ | ? | ? | ? |
| President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) | ? | ? | ? | ↔ | ↓ | ? | ↔ | ? |
| Signed the "Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty" | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| Debt cancellation and patent licensing reform | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| Repeal of HIV entry ban | ? | ? | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↔ | ↓ | ? |
| Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) | ? | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| Marriage equality | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| Civil unions | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| Human Rights Campaign legislative scorecard average | N/A | N/A | 1 | 27 | 13 | N/A | 10 | 15 |

KEY: ↑ Supports ↓ Opposes ↔ Mixed position ? Position unclear or not articulated

DEMOCRATS

Joe Biden



Date of Birth: November 20, 1942
Current Position: U.S. Senator, 1973–present
Previous Service: New Castle County Council, 1971–1973
Education: University of Delaware, AB 1965
Syracuse University, JD 1968
Home: Wilmington, Delaware
Profession: Attorney
Campaign Website: www.joebiden.com

ON THE ISSUES...

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

Senator Biden has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Comprehensive sex education

- Co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.¹

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of comprehensive sex education, Senator Biden responded, "Education is key in prevention and treatment; that is why I support comprehensive and age appropriate sex education that includes science-based prevention methods. Abstinence-only programs are not enough; we have to provide well-rounded education which includes information about contraception and avoidance of STIs (sexually transmitted infections)."²

Syringe exchange

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of syringe exchange, Senator Biden said, "I believe needle exchange is another important method of the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission." He further cited a report by the National Institutes of Health showing a reduction of 30 percent or more in HIV transmission rates among injection drug users who participated in a needle exchange program.³

Microbicides

- Not a co-sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission (All other Democratic Presidential hopefuls currently serving in the Senate have signed on as co-sponsors).⁴

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of microbicides, Senator Biden stated, “I am working to strengthen our current efforts by continuing robust funding for the National Institutes of Health, including building on the successful effort that doubled NIH funding over five years. This groundbreaking research on HIV and AIDS should include the work on the discovery and development of anti-HIV microbicides.”⁵

Prison prevention

- Biden did not respond to this question on the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Not a co-sponsor of ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full-blown AIDS. (All other Democratic Presidential hopefuls currently serving in the Senate have signed on as co-sponsors.)⁶

Ryan White CARE Act

- Co-sponsored the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.⁷
- Co-sponsored the 1995 and 2000 reauthorizations of the Ryan White CARE Act.^{8,9}

When asked about funding for the Ryan White CARE Act in the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, Senator Biden responded, “Since 1991 we’ve invested nearly \$24 billion in the program. It has been incredibly successful—and we need to continue it.”¹⁰

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)

- Signed letter to Senate committee in support of a HOPWA funding increase.¹¹

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Voted in 1993 to prevent people living with HIV/AIDS from permanently immigrating into the United States.¹²
- Voted in 1991 for an amendment to imprison HIV-positive health care workers who perform surgery.¹³

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.¹⁴
- Voted for the first introduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in 1996, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.¹⁵
- Voted for the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act in 2000, which would expand hate crimes laws to include sexual orientation.¹⁶
- Voted against the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2006.¹⁷

- Average rating of 84 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 102nd to 109th Congresses.

When asked in April 2007 about his stance on same-sex marriage by host Tim Russert on “Meet the Press,” Biden replied, “I think government should not be able to dictate to religions the definition of marriage, but I think, on a civil side, government has the obligation to strip away every vestige of discrimination as to what individuals are able to do in terms of their personal conduct.”¹⁸

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Co-sponsor of the HIV Prevention Act, which would lift the requirement that one-third of funding for HIV prevention overseas go to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and shift the funding to comprehensive prevention education.¹⁹

In his capacity as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Biden outlined four key priorities for reauthorizing PEPFAR in an October 2007 hearing. They include:

- “Better integrate our HIV/AIDS efforts with our other health and development programs.
- Build health capacity in Africa. The shortage of health care workers may be the greatest obstacle in the fight against HIV/AIDS.
- Expand our efforts to address gender based violence and other inequities. Millions of women and girls do not have the power to make sexual decisions: abstinence is not an option when you lack the power to choose. Girls’ education and women’s empowerment are critical in the fight against AIDS.
- Improve our efforts to combat TB and malaria. These diseases were part of the 2003 legislation. They should be part of our discussion now.”²⁰

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Co-sponsored U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2002, seeking to increase assistance to foreign countries seriously affected by the diseases.²¹
- Co-sponsor of the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007, which would improve the capacity of health systems in sub-Saharan countries.²²
- Signed the “Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty” from 08STOPAIDS.org, vowing to commit \$50 billion to AIDS worldwide and establish sound evidence-based prevention policies.²³

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding the global AIDS epidemic, Senator Biden responded, “We should be guided by evidence, not ideology. I’d change our programs to give them the flexibility to meet local needs for local epidemics and offer more comprehensive approaches to prevention, care, and treatment. We also have to better integrate our efforts to fight AIDS with broader health and development concerns.”²⁴

Biden further stated on the subject, “The shortage of health care workers is the number one obstacle that we face in our efforts to fight HIV/AIDS... I strongly support efforts to increase the number of trained health care workers in the developing world.”²⁵

In his remarks as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a hearing on the “Next Phase of the Global Fight Against HIV/AIDS” in October 2007, Senator Biden commented, “We are not keeping pace with the pandemic. For every person who enrolled in a treatment program last year, six more became newly infected. The United States and its partners need to devote more funds to this effort, but it’s not just a question of more money, it’s a question of how we spend it.” He continued, “. . .we must do more on prevention. The math is brutally clear: we cannot keep up with the current pace of the epidemic through treatment programs. To slow its deadly progress we must expand and improve prevention efforts.”²⁶

Hillary Clinton



Date of Birth: October 26, 1947
Current Position: U.S. Senator, 2001–present
Previous Service: First Lady of the United States, 1993–2001
First Lady of Arkansas, 1978–1980, 1982–1992
Education: Wellesley College, BA 1969
Yale University, JD 1973
Home: Chappaqua, NY
Profession: Attorney
Campaign Website: www.hillaryclinton.com

ON THE ISSUES...

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Senator Clinton has committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

In her response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, Senator Clinton stated, “We need a solution for this problem that incorporates both prevention and treatment efforts. I have promoted increased funding for the Ryan White program, sought to expand Medicaid eligibility to people living with HIV, and worked to help youth gain access to scientifically accurate information about HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. As President, I will work to tie all of these efforts together and bring federal agencies to the table to develop a single, comprehensive national strategy, which will allow for better cooperation among programs that have been underfunded and downgraded during the Bush Administration.”²⁷

PREVENTION

Comprehensive sex education

- Co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation’s youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.²⁸

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of comprehensive sex education, Senator Clinton responded, “I have called for redirecting funding from the Community-Based Abstinence Education Program to evidence-based prevention and sex education programs.”²⁹

Syringe exchange

- Supports federal funding for syringe exchange programs.

At a candidates forum in New York City in July 2007, when asked about her husband’s decision in 1998 to maintain the federal ban on funding syringe exchange programs, Senator Clinton responded: “Well, because we knew we couldn’t maintain it politically. I wish life and politics were easier...”³⁰

After initially being criticized by AIDS activists in September 2007 for not coming out in clear support of syringe exchange programs, Clinton responded to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire on the topic and stated, “Looking at this scientific evidence, I believe federal funds should be used to support needle-exchange programs. I have long believed in evidence-based decision-making and when it comes to combating the HIV/AIDS crisis, I think we should try tools that have been shown to have an impact.”³¹

Microbicides

- Co-sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.³²

Prison prevention

In her response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire on a question about HIV/AIDS in prison, Clinton noted, “We have little information about how many individuals are infected while in prison, mainly because there is little discussion about sex in prison, which is largely prohibited but occurs at unknown rates among inmates. As President, I will take steps to better understand how HIV/AIDS is transmitted in prisons and to address this problem.”³³

General prevention

- Supports increasing prevention efforts to at least \$1 billion.³⁴

In her response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, Clinton commented, “As First Lady, I worked with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation to confront the heartbreaking challenge of helping children with AIDS. In the Senate, I’ve fought to give poor men and women the medicines they need. As President, I will work to dramatically reduce the number of new HIV infections in this country and around the world. Our current prevention efforts have done little to lower the number of HIV infections, and we need to increase the ability of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide outreach, education, and awareness programs to reduce the incidence of HIV. And I will pay special attention to the unique needs of communities of color, which bear so much of the burden of this disease.”³⁵

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Co-sponsored the Early Treatment for HIV Act in the 108th, 109th and 110th Congresses, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.^{36,37,38}

In response to the Human Rights Campaign’s Presidential Candidates Survey, on the matter of ETHA, Senator Clinton noted, “[ETHA] is a common-sense bill to help people who are HIV positive live longer and healthier lives, and I strongly support it.”³⁹

Ryan White CARE Act

- In 2006, Clinton placed a hold on the Ryan White re-authorization bill due to the severe funding cuts New York would have received. This was recognized as a courageous move by local AIDS advocates and a stance for increased Ryan White funding in New York. She eventually released the hold after funding assurances were made.⁴⁰

- Supports an increase to the Ryan White funding, which is the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.⁴¹

As mentioned on Clinton’s presidential campaign website, under the topic of “Providing Affordable and Accessible Healthcare,” Clinton states, “Hillary led the fight for the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which expands access to vital treatment options for low-income individuals living with HIV. She also fought to fully fund the Ryan White CARE Act to improve access to treatment and support for those living with HIV and AIDS.”⁴²

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Signed letter to Senate committee in support of a HOPWA funding increase.⁴³

CIVIL RIGHTS

During the Logo Channel/Human Rights Campaign presidential debate in August 2007, when asked about civil rights, Clinton responded, “I will be a president who will fight for you, will work to end discrimination in the employment area, end ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ finally get hate crimes [legislation] through, do a lot of what we need to do on HIV/AIDS and so much more. And I really hope that we can be partners in trying to make our country a little bit better and a little more progressive for all of us.”⁴⁴

People living with HIV/AIDS

Senator Clinton’s position on the HIV travel and immigration ban is mixed. She did not answer yes or no to the question on the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire regarding the ban against people living with HIV/AIDS from entering the U.S., which asked, “Do you support the repeal of the ban against people living with HIV entering the United States as travelers or immigrants, and which bars those in the U.S. from legalizing their immigration status?” Clinton did, however, say, “I believe people with HIV/AIDS wishing to enter the United States should not be singled out because of their illness. I believe public health officials, not Members of Congress, should be making these kinds of judgments, based on evidence and whether there is a public health rationale to prohibit their admission.”⁴⁵ It is unclear from this statement whether Senator Clinton would support Congresswoman Barbara Lee’s bill, which would remove the entry ban from the Immigration and Naturalization Act and return authority in this area to the Department of Health and Human Services. In any case, Senator Clinton has not come out in support of lifting the entry ban.

At the Howard University Debate presidential debate in June 2007, Senator Clinton theorized, “Let me just put this in perspective: If HIV/AIDS were the leading cause of death of white women between the ages of 25 and 34 there would be an outraged, outcry in this country.”⁴⁶

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001, which would expand hate crimes laws to include sexual orientation.⁴⁷
- Voted against the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2006.⁴⁸
- Endorsed by both openly gay Members of Congress, Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin.⁴⁹
- Average rating of 92 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 107th to 109th Congresses.

When asked about pending hate crimes legislation during a Democratic Presidential Candidates debate sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations, Clinton noted, “[the hate crimes bill] is an important measure to send a message that we stand against hatred and divisiveness”⁵⁰

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Co-sponsor of the HIV Prevention Act, which would lift the requirement that one-third of funding for HIV prevention overseas go to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and shift the funding to comprehensive prevention education.⁵¹

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Co-sponsored International AIDS Treatment Act of 2002, seeking to increase assistance to foreign countries seriously affected by HIV/AIDS.⁵²
- Supports debt forgiveness so impoverished nations can meet their Millennium Development Goals and boost their fight against AIDS.⁵³
- Co-sponsor of the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007, which would improve the capacity of health systems in sub-Saharan countries.⁵⁴
- Signed the “Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty” from 08STOPAIDS.org, vowing to commit \$50 billion to AIDS worldwide and establish sound evidence-based prevention policies.⁵⁵

At a statement on World AIDS Day in 2006, Senator Clinton commented, “I support efforts to increase our contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which reaches millions of individuals...We must make good on our promises, and increase support for programs that help people affected by AIDS.”⁵⁶

In a statement given to the United Nations on the same day, Clinton said, “Twenty-five years into the epidemic, we know that we are falling short of our commitment to ensure that people have the information needed to allow them to protect themselves from this epidemic. We must ensure that our young people around the world have access to scientifically-based information about HIV and ways to prevent infection.”⁵⁷

In an article published by *Vanity Fair* magazine in the summer of 2007, Clinton stated, “Education is health care, because accurate information about AIDS and HIV saves lives. Education is economics, because there is a straight path from a good school to a good job. Of course, we should also help Africa with proven economic-development strategies and with building health systems to support now affordable treatment for HIV/AIDS. But with universal education, Africans will soon work themselves out of extreme poverty.”⁵⁸

Chris Dodd



Date of Birth: May 27, 1944
Current Position: U.S. Senator, 1981–present
Previous Service: U.S. House of Representatives, 1975–1981
Education: Providence College, BA 1966
University of Louisville, JD 1972
Home: East Haddam, Connecticut
Profession: Attorney
Campaign Website: www.chrisdodd.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, Senator Dodd did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

Dodd has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only-until-marriage funding, comprehensive sex education

- Co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.⁵⁹
- Co-sponsor of the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, 109th Congress, which would provide a federal grant program for states for comprehensive sex education and would allow states to secure this funding without having to promise to teach abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum.⁶⁰

Syringe exchange

- Supports federal funding for syringe exchange programs.

In a 1998 speech lambasting Senate Republicans for defeating an anti-smoking bill in Congress, Dodd referred to some of the amendments Republicans attempted to add on and said, “It would have barred federal funds and limited non-federal funds for needle exchange programs—programs that have effectively helped control the spread of the deadly AIDS virus in our communities.”⁶¹

Microbicides

- Co-sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.⁶²

Prison prevention

Position unclear.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Co-sponsored ETHA in 109th and 110th Congresses, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.^{63,64}

Ryan White CARE Act

- Co-sponsored the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.⁶⁵
- Co-sponsored the 1995 and 2000 Reauthorizations of Ryan White CARE Act.^{66,67}

In a written response to a question posed at the Logo/Human Rights Campaign debate (which Dodd did not attend), on the matter of Ryan White, Senator Dodd stated, “I was an original co-sponsor of the first Ryan White CARE Act in 1990. I am appalled by what this administration has done to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs and its cuts to Ryan White funding. I would absolutely reinstate funding for outreach to prevent HIV/AIDS.”⁶⁸

Dodd continued, “There are a number of things we need to do to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS in our urban communities. Reinstating funding for the Ryan White CARE Act will be an important piece of turning back the tide on this disease. In addition, my universal healthcare plan which focuses on prevention as well as coverage, will ensure that people in our urban communities, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to the information they need to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the treatments we have developed to treat it.”⁶⁹

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Has not signed onto a letter to Senate committee in support of a HOPWA funding increase (All other Democratic Presidential hopefuls currently serving in the Senate have signed on as co-sponsors).

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Voted in 1993 against a bill prohibiting HIV-positive individuals from permanently immigrating into the United States.⁷⁰
- Voted in 1991 for an amendment to imprison HIV-positive health care workers who perform surgery.⁷¹

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.⁷²
- Voted for the first introduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in 1996, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.⁷³
- Voted for the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act in 2000, which would expand

hate crimes laws to include sexual orientation.⁷⁴

- Did not vote when the Senate considered the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment in 2006.⁷⁵
- Average rating of 92 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 102nd to 109th Congresses.

GLOBAL

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Co-sponsor of the HIV Prevention Act, which would lift the requirement that one-third of funding for HIV prevention overseas go to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and shift the funding to comprehensive prevention education.⁷⁶

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Co-sponsored U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2002, seeking to increase assistance to foreign countries seriously affected by the diseases.⁷⁷
- Co-sponsor of the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007, which would improve the capacity of health systems in sub-Saharan countries.⁷⁸
- Signed the “Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty” from 08STOPAIDS.org, vowing to commit \$50 billion to AIDS worldwide and establish sound evidence-based prevention policies.⁷⁹

John Edwards



Date of Birth: June 10, 1953
Previous Service: U.S. Senate, 1999–2005
Democratic Party Vice Presidential Candidate, 2004
Education: North Carolina State, BS 1974
University of North Carolina, JD 1977
Home: Raleigh, North Carolina
Profession: Attorney
Campaign Website: www.johnedwards.com

ON THE ISSUES...

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Former Senator Edwards has committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy. He has also released details of what his AIDS strategy would look like.⁸⁰

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of a national AIDS strategy, Senator Edwards responded, “I will develop a National HIV/AIDS Strategy through an honest, comprehensive and fast-tracked process that involves stakeholders from the public and nonprofit sectors. The National Strategy will coordinate the various agencies within and outside of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that affect HIV/AIDS policy.”⁸¹

During the Democratic Presidential Candidates debate at Howard University focusing on issues of importance to the African American community, Edwards stated “Here are the three things I think we need to do. We need to fully fund finding a cure for AIDS, so we can end this scourge once and for all. We need to fully fund the law known as Ryan White, to make sure that the treatment is available for anybody who’s diagnosed with AIDS. Finally, we need to ensure that Medicaid covers AIDS drugs and AIDS treatment to make sure that people get the treatment they need, particularly low-income individuals who are diagnosed with AIDS.”⁸²

“The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to grow in the United States and around the world. I support allowing states to expand Medicaid coverage to low-income HIV-positive Americans and more funding for HIV prevention, treatment, and research. My plan to guarantee quality affordable health care for every man, woman, and child in America will empower people to prevent, test, and treat HIV with fear of losing benefits if they change or lose their job.”⁸³

Regarding the high cost of drugs, Edwards has said he would consider eliminating patent protections for “breakthrough” drugs, in order to lower costs and broaden distribution.⁸⁴

In a response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, Senator Edwards responded, “True universal health care must be the foundation for a national HIV/AIDS strategy...My plan will take on the big insurance companies and build one health care system where every American can get the care they need, when they need it.”⁸⁵

PREVENTION

- Supports \$1 billion in annual funding to promote reliable prevention strategies.⁸⁶

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- One of only three candidates to firmly oppose federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.⁸⁷

In response to the Human Rights Campaign's Presidential Candidates Survey, on the matter of comprehensive sex education, Senator Edwards responded, "I support comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education for young people that includes information on both abstinence and contraception."⁸⁸

Syringe exchange

- Supports lifting the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange.⁸⁹

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of syringe exchange, Senator Edwards responded, "I support harm-reduction programs that provide high-risk individuals with access to clean syringes, including needle exchange."⁹⁰

Microbicides

- Supports passage of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.⁹¹

Prison prevention

- Supports passage of the Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act, which would allow for the distribution of condoms in federal prisons.⁹²

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding HIV/AIDS in our nation's prisons, Senator Edwards noted, "Any serious effort to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic must include the incarcerated population and address their prevention and treatment needs."⁹³

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Co-sponsored ETHA in 108th Congress, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.⁹⁴

Ryan White CARE Act

- Co-sponsored the 2000 Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.⁹⁵

When asked in the Human Rights Campaign's Presidential Candidates Survey about funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, Senator Edwards noted, "There is an urgent need for more resources in the fight against HIV/AIDS...As president, I will continue the fight for the funding that this program critically needs."⁹⁶

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Supports increased funding for HOPWA program.⁹⁷

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Supports repeal of the HIV travel and immigration ban.⁹⁸

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter immigration of HIV-positive individuals, Senator Edwards commented on the current entry ban, “The policy’s original public health rationale—fear of an imported epidemic that might swamp the U.S. health system—is unfounded.” Edwards further cited in his response a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies that concluded our nation’s current immigration policy on this topic is “counterproductive, rooted in discrimination, and damaging to America’s credibility and leadership around the world.”⁹⁹

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act in 2000, which would expand hate crimes laws to include sexual orientation.¹⁰⁰
- Supports repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” military policy, which would allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military.¹⁰¹
- Supports repeal of Defense of Marriage Act.¹⁰²
- Supports civil unions, but not full marriage equality.¹⁰³
- Average rating of 79 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 106th to 108th Congresses.

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Supports lifting the requirement that one-third of funding for HIV prevention overseas go to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and shifting the funding to comprehensive prevention education.¹⁰⁴

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Co-sponsored International AIDS Treatment Act of 2002, seeking to increase assistance to foreign countries seriously affected by HIV/AIDS.¹⁰⁵
- Supports the adoption of licensing policies to ensure that medications developed by the United States are made available off-patent to developing nations.¹⁰⁶
- Signed the “Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty” from 08STOPAIDS.org, vowing to commit \$50 billion to AIDS worldwide and establish sound evidence-based prevention policies.¹⁰⁷

In an article for *Foreign Affairs* magazine entitled “Reengaging with the World” in 2007, former Senator Edwards stated, “Clean water and sanitation are also necessary to improve health, education, and economic prosperity. Women and children bear the burden of poverty and disease in the developing world. Women in the poorest countries have a ten percent chance of dying during childbirth. More than ten million children die each year from preventable

diseases. Developing countries suffer enormously from the top three killer diseases: AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Edwards continued, “As president, I will concentrate on reversing the spread of these three deadly diseases by guaranteeing universal access to preventive drugs and treatment by 2010. I will also substantially increase U.S. funding for clean-water programs. Finally, I will direct U.S. agencies to lead an international effort to dramatically increase preventive care, beginning with increased vaccinations and the provision of sterile equipment and basic medications.”¹⁰⁸

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding sex workers, Senator Edwards stated, “Reducing violence against women and expanding education are both proven means of preventing HIV/AIDS. As president, I will aggressively support political and economic rights for women where they do not exist and support efforts to reduce violence against women and children.”¹⁰⁹

Mike Gravel



Date of Birth: May 13, 1930
Previous Positions: U.S. Senate, 1969–1981
Speaker, Alaska House of Representatives, 1965–1966
Alaska House of Representatives, 1963–1966
U.S. Army, 1951–1954
Education: Columbia University, BS 1956
Home: Anchorage, Alaska
Profession: Author, Lecturer
Campaign Website: www.gravel2008.us

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, former Senator Gravel did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Gravel has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

- Supports increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention.¹¹⁰

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Supports passage of the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, which would provide a federal grant program for states for comprehensive sex education and would allow states to secure this funding without having to promise to teach abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum.¹¹¹

Syringe exchange

Position unclear.

Microbicides

Position unclear.

Prison prevention

Position unclear.

TREATMENT/CARE

- Supports increased funding for HIV/AIDS treatment.¹¹²

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Supports passage of ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full-blown AIDS.¹¹³

Ryan White CARE Act

- Supports increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.¹¹⁴

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

Position unclear.

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

Position unclear.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Supports full marriage equality for same-sex couples.¹¹⁵
- Authored legislation creating Human Rights Commission of Alaska.¹¹⁶
- Supports repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” military policy, which would allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military.¹¹⁷

CURE

HIV vaccine development

- Supports increased funding for research.¹¹⁸

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

Position unclear.

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

Position unclear.

Dennis Kucinich



Date of Birth: October 8, 1946
Current Position: U.S. House of Representatives, 1997–present
Previous Service: Ohio State Senate, 1994–1996
Mayor of Cleveland, 1977–1979
Clerk of the Municipal Court
in Cleveland, 1975–1977
Cleveland City Council,
1970–1975, 1981–1982
Education: Case Western Reserve, BA & MA 1973
Home: Cleveland, Ohio
Profession: Politician, Editor
Campaign Website: www.dennis4president.com

ON THE ISSUES...

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Congressman Kucinich has committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.¹¹⁹

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Co-sponsor of the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, which would provide a federal grant program for states for comprehensive sex education and would allow states to secure this funding without having to promise to teach abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum.¹²⁰
- Co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.¹²¹
- One of only three candidates to firmly oppose federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.¹²²

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding abstinence-only-until-marriage, Congressman Kucinich responded, “Abstinence-only programs do not work. They do not discourage sex, and only make youth more likely not to have protected sex when they do engage in sexual activity. By abolishing abstinence only programs and instead implementing comprehensive science based sex education the United States can slow the spread of this disease.”¹²³

In response to a question regarding potential Supreme Court appointments at a CNN Democratic debate in November 2007, Kucinich responded, “A president has to be a healer, and this has been one of the great divides in our country. And so I want to also let the American people know that I’ll stand for prenatal care, postnatal care, child care, a living wage, universal health care, sex education [cut off by Wolf Blitzer].”¹²⁴

Syringe exchange

- Supports lifting the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange.¹²⁵
- Voted in 2007 against the amendment to reinstate the ban on locally-funded syringe exchange programs in the District of Columbia.¹²⁶
- Voted in 1998 against the funding ban on federal syringe exchange programs.¹²⁷

Microbicides

- Has expressed support for passage of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission, however, he has not co-sponsored the bill.^{128,129}

Prison prevention

- Co-sponsor of the Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act, which would allow for the distribution of condoms in federal prisons.¹³⁰
- The Stop AIDS in Prison Act passed the House by a voice vote on September 25, 2007. No presidential candidate serving in the House co-sponsored the legislation.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Co-sponsored ETHA in the 107th and 108th Congresses, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.^{131,132}
- Co-sponsor of Routine HIV/AIDS Screening Coverage Act of 2007, which would require individual and group health insurance coverage for routine HIV/AIDS screening.¹³³

Ryan White CARE Act

- Voted for the 2000 and 2006 re-authorizations of the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.^{134,135}

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Supports increased funding for HOPWA program.¹³⁶
- Voted against funding cuts to HOPWA program in 1998.¹³⁷

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Supports repeal of the HIV travel and immigration ban.¹³⁸
- Co-sponsor of HIV Nondiscrimination in Travel and Immigration Act, which would return to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the discretion to remove HIV and AIDS restrictions on entry, rather than Immigration and Customs Enforcement.¹³⁹

In response to a question at the Logo Channel/Human Rights Campaign debate, regarding the AIDS epidemic, Congressman Kucinich responded, “We also need a president who is ready to embrace people with AIDS in a real, meaningful way that says that, look, we want you to

receive all the care that you need by having a not-for-profit health care system so you don't have to worry about working a lifetime, having AIDS, and then losing everything you've ever worked for and not being able to give it to your partner, for example, or to share it with someone you love."¹⁴⁰

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Supports full marriage equality for same-sex couples.¹⁴¹
- Co-sponsor of the original Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of 2007, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He later voted for its final passage in the House without gender identity.¹⁴²
- Voted against banning adoptions by same-sex couples in Washington D.C.¹⁴³
- Voted against the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2006.¹⁴⁴
- Average rating of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 105th to 109th Congresses.

GLOBAL

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Co-sponsor of the Prevention Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth (PATHWAY) Act, which would eliminate the requirement to fund abstinence-only-until-marriage education as part of the United States' global prevention initiative.¹⁴⁵
- Voted against requiring abstinence-only-until-marriage education funding in PEPFAR.¹⁴⁶

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Co-sponsor of the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007, which would improve the capacity of health systems in sub-Saharan countries.¹⁴⁷
- Supports the adoption of licensing policies to ensure that medications developed by the United States are made available off-patent to developing nations.¹⁴⁸
- Signed the "Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty" from 08STOPAIDS.org, vowing to commit \$50 billion to AIDS worldwide and establish sound evidence-based prevention policies.¹⁴⁹

In response to the Human Rights Campaign's Presidential Candidates Survey, regarding the global AIDS epidemic, Congressman Kucinich responded, "AIDS is a global epidemic. The United States must commit our full resources to fighting this growing crisis, here and globally. To do anything short of that is unacceptable. In the name of justice, humanity, and for the protection of the global community, we must find ways to increase, not decrease, funding to fight this epidemic."¹⁵⁰

As Kucinich states on his campaign website, "I have proudly joined AIDSvote.org... We need to invest at least \$30 billion over the next four years in the global fight against AIDS. We must repeal trade agreement[s] that impede access to affordable generic drugs. We must work to cause the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and the World Bank to reduce and eventually eliminate the debt that takes poor nations' resources away from crises like AIDS."¹⁵¹

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding the global AIDS epidemic, Congressman Kucinich responded, "Under a Kucinich Administration the

United States would pay its fair share to the global community to ensure the fight against AIDS, contributing personnel and money to uphold its commitment to halving the number of deaths from TB, Malaria and HIV.”¹⁵²

MISCELLANEOUS

Kucinich further stated at the Logo/ Human Rights Campaign debate, “This is something that, to me, the challenge of AIDS relates to not just funding, but it relates to having a president who’s wise enough and courageous enough to take this issue on in a very direct way and do it without any fear whatsoever.”¹⁵³

Barack Obama



Date of Birth: August 4, 1961
Current Position: U.S. Senator, 2005–present
Previous Service: Illinois State Senate, 1997–2005
Education: Columbia University, BA 1983
Harvard University, JD 1991
Home: Chicago, Illinois
Profession: Attorney
Campaign Website: www.barackobama.com

ON THE ISSUES...

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Senator Obama has committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy. He has also released details of what his AIDS strategy would look like.¹⁵⁴

At a speech in Lake Forest, CA on World AIDS Day 2006, Senator Obama declared, “We are all sick because of AIDS—and we are all tested by this crisis. It is a test not only of our willingness to respond, but of our ability to look past the artificial divisions and debates that have often shaped that response. When you go to places like Africa and you see this problem up close, you realize that it’s not a question of either treatment or prevention—or even what kind of prevention—it is all of the above. It is not an issue of either science or values—it is both. Yes, there must be more money spent on this disease. But there must also be a change in hearts and minds, in cultures and attitudes. Neither philanthropist nor scientist, neither government nor church, can solve this problem on their own—AIDS must be an all-hands-on-deck effort.”¹⁵⁵

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation’s youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.¹⁵⁶
- One of only three candidates to firmly oppose federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.¹⁵⁷

Syringe exchange

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding syringe exchange, Senator Obama stated, “I believe needle exchange is another important method of the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission.”¹⁵⁸

Microbicides

- Primary Sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.¹⁵⁹

Speaking to a *Los Angeles Times* reporter on the realities of HIV prevention, Senator Obama noted, “We can’t ignore the fact that abstinence and fidelity, although the ideal, may not always be the reality—that we’re dealing with flesh and blood men and women and not abstractions, and that if condoms and, potentially, things like microbicides, can prevent millions of deaths, then they should be made more widely available.”¹⁶⁰

Prison prevention

- Supports the Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act, as introduced in the House of Representatives (the bill is not yet introduced in the Senate), which would allow for the distribution of condoms in federal prisons.¹⁶¹

General prevention

At a 2006 World AIDS Day Summit at Saddleback Church in Orange County, California, Obama stated, “Let me say this loud and clear: I don’t think that we can deny that there is a moral and spiritual component to prevention, that in too many places all over the world where HIV/AIDS is prevalent—including, by the way, right here in the United States—the relationship between men and women, between sexuality and spirituality, has broken down, and needs to be repaired.”¹⁶²

In response to a question on AIDS at the Logo Channel/Human Rights Campaign presidential debate, Senator Obama responded, “I’m willing to talk about AIDS at Saddleback Church to evangelicals and talk about why we need to have condom distribution to deal with the scourge of AIDS.”¹⁶³

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Co-sponsored ETHA in the 109th Congress, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.¹⁶⁴

Ryan White CARE Act

- Supports protecting the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.¹⁶⁵

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Signed letter to Senate committee in support of a HOPWA funding increase.¹⁶⁶

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Supports repeal of the HIV travel and immigration ban.¹⁶⁷

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted against the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2006.¹⁶⁸
- Average rating of 89 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 109th Congress only.

When asked in November 2007 about his stance on same-sex marriage by host Tim Russert on “Meet the Press,” Obama replied, “I have not said that I was a supporter of gay marriage, but I am a strong supporter of civil unions, and I would, as president, make absolutely certain that all federal laws pertaining to married couples—benefits pertaining to married couples are conferred to people who—same sex couples who have civil unions as well.”¹⁶⁹

CURE

HIV vaccine development

- Supports increased funding for a vaccine.¹⁷⁰

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Co-sponsor of the HIV Prevention Act, which would lift the requirement that one-third of funding for HIV prevention overseas go to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and shift the funding to comprehensive prevention education.¹⁷¹
- Supports an additional \$1 billion annual increase over the next five years to strengthen and expand the PEPFAR program in Southeast Asia, India, and Eastern Europe.¹⁷²

While outlining his ideas on the global AIDS epidemic in his national strategy, Obama states, “that our first priority should be to reauthorize PEPFAR when it expires in 2008 and rewrite much of the bill to allow best practices—not ideology—to drive funding for HIV/AIDS programs.”¹⁷³

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Co-sponsor of the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007, which would improve the capacity of health systems in sub-Saharan countries.¹⁷⁴
- Co-sponsored the International Cooperation to Meet the Millennium Development Goals Act of 2005, which would urge debt forgiveness and full funding for our international commitments in the fight against global HIV/AIDS.¹⁷⁵
- Supports the adoption of licensing policies to ensure that medications developed by the United States are made available off-patent to developing nations.¹⁷⁶
- Signed the “Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty” from 08STOPAIDS.org, vowing to commit \$50 billion to AIDS worldwide and establish sound evidence-based prevention policies.¹⁷⁷

In addressing the global AIDS epidemic at a 2006 World AIDS Day Summit at Saddleback Church in Orange County, California, Senator Obama remarked about Africa, “Friends, that’s a continent sliding into the ocean... It is a race against time. People are dying... There’s nothing political about dealing with malaria and global HIV.”¹⁷⁸

In an essay for *Foreign Affairs* magazine, Obama wrote, “We need to invest in building capable, democratic states that can establish healthy and educated communities, develop markets, and generate wealth. Such states would also have greater institutional capacities to fight terrorism, halt the spread of deadly weapons, and build health-care infrastructures to prevent, detect, and treat deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and avian flu... Our rapidly growing international AIDS programs have demonstrated that increased foreign assistance can make a real difference.”¹⁷⁹

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding the global AIDS epidemic, Senator Obama responded, “I am committed to doubling U.S. spending on foreign aid to \$50 billion a year by 2012...to ensure a comprehensive fight against this global pandemic.”¹⁸⁰

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Poverty

In an article from the *Berkley Daily Planet*, Obama was quoted as saying, “There are no magic solutions... Communities that are poor are like a diseased body, they are more vulnerable to violence, to the drug trade, more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS—their immune system is broken down. If we can strengthen these communities with jobs, education, preventative healthcare, that will all make a difference.”¹⁸¹

Health Care

In a radio campaign ad, Obama stated, “We have more work to do when the black incidence of HIV/AIDS and diabetes, and every other illness is multiple times higher than the rest of the population.”¹⁸²

Bill Richardson



Date of Birth: November 15, 1947
Current Position: Governor of New Mexico, 2002–present
Previous Service: Secretary of the Department of Energy, 1998–2002
U.N. Ambassador to the United Nations, 1996–1998
U.S. House of Representatives, 1982–1996
Education: Tufts University, BA 1970
Home: Santa Fe, New Mexico
Profession: Politician, Diplomat
Campaign Website: www.richardsonforpresident.com

ON THE ISSUES...

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Governor Richardson has committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.¹⁸³

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Supports passage of Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.¹⁸⁴
- In April 2006, the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDH) under Governor Richardson decided to limit abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to grades six and below and to provide comprehensive sex education to grades seven and above. The federal government subsequently rejected New Mexico's later applications for funding until NMDH came into compliance with its guidelines. New Mexico refused.¹⁸⁵

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of comprehensive sex education, Governor Richardson responded, "I support a dedicated funding stream for age-appropriate comprehensive sex education."¹⁸⁶

Syringe exchange

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding syringe exchange, Governor Richardson noted, "I believe that the ban on federal funding for needle exchange should be lifted, but...such funding must be tied to drug addiction treatment programs."¹⁸⁷

Microbicides

- Supports passage of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.¹⁸⁸

Prison prevention

- Supports passage of the Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act, which would allow for the distribution of condoms in federal prisons.¹⁸⁹

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, on the matter of prison health, Governor Richardson said, “The spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in our prisons is a serious problem.” Richardson, further noting the disproportionate rate of HIV and Hepatitis C among individuals in correctional facilities, stated “We must do more to reduce the spread of STIs in our federal prison system.”¹⁹⁰

General prevention

- Supports increasing prevention efforts to at least \$1 billion.¹⁹¹

TREATMENT/CARE

- Created a 23-member Governor’s HIV and AIDS Commission in 2005, to review policy and make recommendations to the state Department of Health on HIV/AIDS programs.¹⁹²
- As Governor, allocated \$1 million to expand access to medications and insurance coverage to people living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico.¹⁹³
- In 2005, Richardson signed into law the Billy Griego HIV and AIDS Act, which created an advisory committee on HIV/AIDS drug policies in New Mexico.¹⁹⁴

Upon signing “Billy’s Act” into law, Governor Richardson stated, “In numerous other states, people are dying while waiting for the AIDS medications. That is not happening in New Mexico. This legislation reinforces New Mexico as a leader in the nation for its support of HIV and AIDS patients.”¹⁹⁵

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Supports passage of ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full-blown AIDS.¹⁹⁶

Ryan White CARE Act

- Voted for reauthorization of Ryan White CARE Act of 1995 and supports increased funding for Ryan White, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.¹⁹⁷

In response to the Human Rights Campaign’s Presidential Candidates Survey, regarding Ryan White funding, Governor Richardson replied, “I would support increased funding to treat American with HIV/AIDS through the CARE Act, but my administration will also work tirelessly to address the larger issues—to make high-quality health care affordable for every American, regardless of their health issues.”¹⁹⁸

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Voted in 1997 against increasing funding to HOPWA program (one of only 28 Democrats to do so).¹⁹⁹
- In 2007 Richardson expressed support for increased funding for the HOPWA program.²⁰⁰

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

Then-Congressman Richardson voted in 1993 to prevent people living with HIV/AIDS from permanently immigrating into the United States.²⁰¹ However, he has since changed his position on this issue, and now supports lifting the entry ban for HIV-positive immigrants and travelers. In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding immigration of HIV-positive individuals, Governor Richardson stated support for repeal of the ban and remarked, “We must not discriminate against people who have HIV.”²⁰²

In response to a question on the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS at the Logo Channel/Human Rights Campaign presidential debate, Richardson noted, “In America, the treatment of people with HIV/AIDS has had a shameful history. As the disease spread during the 1980’s, Republican administrations ignored the problem and community activists spent countless hours trying to get funding for this urgent health care crisis.”²⁰³

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.²⁰⁴
- Co-sponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of 1994, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.²⁰⁵
- In 2003, as Governor of New Mexico, Richardson signed into law an employment non-discrimination bill and a hate crimes bill, inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity.²⁰⁶
- Supports repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” military policy, which would allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military.²⁰⁷
- Average rating of 88 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 101st to 104th Congresses.

In a presidential candidates debate on MSNBC in the fall of 2007, Richardson said, “I would commit myself, number one, that I will be a leader that prevents discrimination on the basis of race, gender and sexual orientation.”²⁰⁸

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Supports lifting the requirement that one-third of funding for HIV prevention overseas go to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and shifting the funding to comprehensive prevention education.²⁰⁹

While stating possible solutions to the AIDS epidemic in response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, Governor Richardson said, “We must look for ways to criticize prostitution without hindering our ability to reach out and provide help to all of the sex workers who are victimized by it.”²¹⁰

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Supports the adoption of licensing policies to ensure that medications developed by the United States are made available off-patent to developing nations.²¹¹

- Signed the “Presidential Pledge for Leadership on Global AIDS and Poverty” from 08STOPAIDS.org, vowing to commit \$50 billion to AIDS worldwide and establish sound evidence-based prevention policies.²¹²

General global

At the Democratic debate sponsored by LOGO and the Human Rights Campaign, Richardson commented, “We should talk about international issues relating to HIV and AIDS. I was there. I have fully funded in my state HIV/AIDS initiatives across the board.”²¹³

In response to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire, regarding the global AIDS epidemic, Governor Richardson noted, “I believe the International Monetary Fund should phase out 100% of the debt of these nations, contingent upon their agreement to implement specific AIDS programs.”²¹⁴

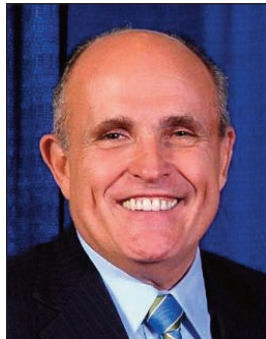
In a press release from his presidential campaign, Richardson stated, “I strongly believe that the global fight against HIV/AIDS is one of the great moral challenges of our generation. In this battle, our moral outrage at the destructiveness of the disease must be matched by a financial dedication to destroying it.”²¹⁵

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided \$2 million for the New Mexico Department of Health to prevent, manage, and treat Hepatitis C statewide.²¹⁶

REPUBLICANS

Rudy Giuliani



Date of Birth: May 28, 1944
Previous Service: Mayor of New York City, 1994–2001
U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, 1981–1989
Education: Manhattan College, BA 1965
New York University School of Law, JD 1968
Home: New York, NY
Profession: Attorney
Campaign Website: www.joinrudy2008.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, former Mayor Giuliani did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Former mayor Giuliani has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

Rudy Giuliani was elected mayor of New York City in 1993. One issue which helped propel Giuliani to victory was the attempt by Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez to adopt a gay-affirmative diversity curriculum and to teach sex education and make condoms available to prevent the spread of HIV. Fernandez, appointed by Mayor David Dinkins in 1990, was fired by the New York School Board in 1993 after clashing with parents opposed to the “Children of the Rainbow” curriculum and sex education. Although Giuliani was not mayor at the time, candidate Giuliani’s opposition to the diversity curriculum and sex education was seen as pivotal in the firing of Fernandez. According to the *Los Angeles Times*:

Giuliani... is blamed by some for helping fuel controversy over a diversity program know as the Children of the Rainbow curriculum. The program preached racial and religious tolerance, but a piece of it also taught children younger than 10 about the existence of homosexuality, using the book *Heather has Two Mommies*. That was the part of the program that enraged parents—many of them Giuliani supporters—in heavily Catholic sections of Queens. School Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez, now retired in Florida, supported the curriculum, arguing that it taught teens abstinence while also showing “how to protect yourself if you were going to have sex.” Parents also could choose to not have their children participate, he said. “It was not a big deal, but it became a big deal,” he said. Giuliani’s political managers stoked the issue, “though you could never pin it on him [Giuliani] directly,” Fernandez said.²¹⁷

The Village Voice reported that the majority on the school board “evicted Fernandez in 1993 at Candidate Rudy’s urging.”²¹⁸ Another *Village Voice* account reported that, “opposed by Giuliani and the Christian Coalition, Fernandez and his rejected Rainbow Curriculum were practically booted out of town in 1993.”²¹⁹ Sex education and gay-affirming initiatives have largely floundered since then.²²⁰

Giuliani’s first appointment as mayor was to name Ninfa Segarra Deputy Mayor for “education and community affairs.” Segarra was one of four school board members to fire Chancellor Fernandez in early 1993 due to his support for the diversity curriculum and condoms in the schools. Although appointed by Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, Segarra aligned herself with other conservatives on the school board and “became a political supporter of Mr. Giuliani,” according to *The New York Times*.²²¹ Giuliani praised Segarra as a “role model and a hero.”²²²

Despite this history, when criticized by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Brooklyn on the availability of condoms in schools, mayor-elect Giuliani responded, “My position has always been that condoms should be available. I support that program. But I believe that parents should have the opportunity to opt out if they choose.”²²³

Syringe exchange

- As mayor from 1994 to 2001, Giuliani oversaw a dramatic expansion of New York City’s syringe exchange program. From 1990 to 2002 the rate of HIV transmission among injection drug users dropped by 78 percent.²²⁴
- Despite the program’s success, during Giuliani’s 1997 re-election campaign, his administration suppressed a report by the Mayor’s Office of AIDS Policy on needle exchange that would have shown the overwhelming success of such programs.²²⁵

Microbicides

Position unclear.

Prison prevention

Position unclear.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

Position unclear.

Ryan White CARE Act

Position unclear.

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Instead of using federal HOPWA funds to build permanent housing for homeless people with AIDS, Giuliani occasionally housed people in luxury hotels for \$350 per night.²²⁶
- During his mayoralty, Giuliani violated guidelines for AIDS patients by placing some people in group shelters, leaving them vulnerable to tuberculosis and other diseases encountered in group shelters. Those housed were also often left without a refrigerator for medications and special foods, or a private bathroom.²²⁷

- Giuliani illegally retaliated against Housing Works and other AIDS housing advocates who protested his administration's actions by denying them city contracts. The City was sued by AIDS housing advocates and ordered to pay nearly \$5 million in restitution for lost city contracts.²²⁸

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- In 1999, under the guise of welfare reform, Giuliani instituted additional barriers for people with AIDS to receive public benefits, including background checks. This policy was struck down in a unanimous decision by the New York State Court of Appeals.²²⁹
- When asked in a 1989 bi-partisan mayoral debate whether he favored testing all people in high-risk categories for HIV, Giuliani responded, "Mandatory testing gets you involved in privacy issues that are very difficult and I wouldn't favor that. What I favor is education, encouragement, trying very hard to get people to release that kind of information."²³⁰
- In the early days of his administration, Mayor Giuliani sought to eliminate or severely cut back the staffing of the New York City Division of AIDS Services (DAS). This came at a time when the number of DAS clients had risen 60% in the year prior to Giuliani's taking office and was expected to increase three-fold by the end of his first term. In response, to stop any future debate on DAS elimination, the City Council passed a bill making the agency permanent. Mayor Giuliani signed the bill into law.^{231,232}
- Near the end of Giuliani's second term as mayor, a federal judge ruled that the Giuliani Administration "chronically and systematically" delayed or ended benefits to thousands of people living with AIDS. As a result of these abuses, New York City's Department of AIDS Services was placed under federal authority for three years.²³³
- Giuliani Administration officials denied AIDS advocates access to City Hall during the critical budget process.²³⁴
- In a speech during his first campaign for mayor of New York City in 1989, Giuliani stated, "A prosecutor cannot ease crushing poverty or end homelessness or treat drug addicts or help people with AIDS. But a mayor can. And a mayor must."²³⁵

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Throughout his mayoralty, Giuliani continuously slashed the budget of the New York City Commission on Human Rights.²³⁶
- Sponsored City Council legislation in 1997 to create domestic partnership in New York City. *The Village Voice* reported that, "[b]y agreeing to sponsor the legislation, [Giuliani] gave [City Council Speaker Peter] Vallone political cover, and the bill was eventually passed."²³⁷
- Opposes same-sex marriage.²³⁸
- Twice donned drag on *Saturday Night Live* in the 1990's.²³⁹
- After a public break with his second wife Donna Hanover in 2001, Giuliani moved in with a gay friend and his longtime partner.²⁴⁰
- Reversing a previously held position, Giuliani now opposes civil unions.²⁴¹
- Eliminated the New York City Office of Lesbian & Gay Concerns.²⁴²
- Endorsed by religious radical right leader, and anti-gay crusader, Pat Robertson.²⁴³

When faced with rallies commemorating the life of slain gay man Matthew Shepard, New York City police were seen as using excessive force to remove peaceful participants, including sending police horses into large crowds.²⁴⁴

When asked by leading gay advocates to condemn extremely homophobic and AIDS-phobic remarks made by one of the city's leading pastors, Giuliani responded that he "disagreed" with the reverend, but added "I think it is important that we not censure a man who is not speaking out of hatred but on the basis of a moral theology developed over thousands of years."²⁴⁵

GLOBAL

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Supports continuation of PEPFAR and its expansion "if necessary."²⁴⁶
- When asked if he would fund training of healthcare workers in Africa, Giuliani stated that his plan "would be to continue what [President Bush] has done."²⁴⁷

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Suggested increased trade with African nations as a partial solution to fighting AIDS in Africa.²⁴⁸
- When asked if he would develop a plan for fighting AIDS in globally, Giuliani commented, "Over the course of the campaign; you sort of develop it one piece at a time. But it's something we are very committed to."²⁴⁹

In a 2007 article in *Foreign Affairs* magazine, Giuliani noted, "More people in the United States need to understand how helping Africa today will help increase peace and decency throughout the world tomorrow. The next president should continue the Bush administration's effort to help Africa overcome AIDS and malaria."²⁵⁰

In an article published by *Vanity Fair* magazine in the summer of 2007, Giuliani stated, "More Americans need to see how helping Africa today will help to create a world of increased peace and decency tomorrow. That's why the next president needs to continue and expand the administration's effort to help Africa overcome AIDS. But the most important thing we can do to help Africa build a better future is not just increase aid but increase trade. Increasing U.S. aid to Africa is important, but giving aid without conditions for reform perpetuates bad policies and poverty. Ultimately, it's better to give people a hand-up rather than a handout."²⁵¹

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

In a 1994 article in the *New York Times*, shortly after taking office as mayor, Giuliani commented, "I believe people with AIDS need help. There are unique aspects to the disease and epidemic, no question about it. When I was running for mayor and being briefed by the gay and lesbian community, activists were telling me how ineffective [NYC Division of AIDS Services] was. There's no reason why that can't be contracted out. Government is not and never has been terribly effective at doing these things."²⁵²

Mike Huckabee



Date of Birth: August 24, 1955
Previous Service: Governor of Arkansas, 1996–2007
Lt. Governor of Arkansas, 1993–1996
Education: Ouachita Baptist University, BA 1975
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, MA 1980
Home: North Little Rock, Arkansas
Profession: Businessman, Baptist Minister
Campaign Website: www.mikehuckabee.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, former Governor Huckabee did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Huckabee has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- In his last term as Governor, Huckabee's administration accepted over \$11.3 million of federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.²⁵³
- In 2001, 86% of high school students in Arkansas reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school. That figure dropped to 84% in 2005.²⁵⁴
- Between 2001 and 2005, there was a 25% drop among Arkansas' sexually active, female high school students who reported using condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse, to 49% overall. There was a 6% drop among similar male high school students.²⁵⁵

When asked by CNN if he would direct U.S. funds to health programs that provide condoms in Africa, Huckabee responded, "I'd want to see how that's used...I've been a little reluctant to think that condoms alone are the most effective way. It certainly is more effective than not having them. But I think helping people understand that condoms do have a failure rate, and they are not totally 100 percent successful. And it gives some people a false sense of security thinking that they can still live dangerously and recklessly and that that's going to be a fail safe protection when it obviously is not."²⁵⁶

Syringe exchange

Position unclear.

Microbicides

Position unclear.

Prison prevention

Position unclear.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

Position unclear.

Ryan White CARE Act

Position unclear.

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

Position unclear.

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

Position unclear.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Signed legislation outlawing same-sex marriage in Arkansas.²⁵⁷
- Placed a close second in a presidential candidates straw poll conducted by the anti-gay Family Research Council at its 2007 Values Voter Summit. Gay issues were the top issue for over one-quarter of poll participants.²⁵⁸

When asked in January 2007 about his stance on same-sex marriage by host Tim Russert on “Meet the Press,” Huckabee replied, “There are a lot of kids who are growing up in a very, very confused and conflicted world because—not because we have same-sex marriage, but because we’re seeing a real failure in the tradition heterosexual marriage. That’s where our focus needs to be.” Huckabee continued, “People are, are who they want to be, and we should respect them for that. But when they want to change the institutions that’ve governed our society for all the years of recorded human history, then that’s a serious change of, of culture that we, we don’t just make readily or, or hurriedly. It has to be done with some, some deep thought.”²⁵⁹

In an article in the Des Moines Register, Huckabee was quoted as saying “Let’s face it. In our lifetimes, we’ve seen our country go from ‘Leave it to Beaver’ to ‘Beavis and Butt-head,’ from Barney Fife to Barney Frank.”²⁶⁰

GLOBAL

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

When asked on the campaign trail in New Hampshire if he would support broadening PEPFAR's HIV prevention education to include condoms, Huckabee replied, "Abstinence is the best way to stop HIV from spreading, and we should not condone such behavior."²⁶¹

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

Position unclear.

Duncan Hunter



Date of Birth: May 31, 1948
Current Position: U.S. House of Representatives, 1981–present
Previous Service: United States Army, 1969–1971
Education: Western State University, BS 1968
Western State University, JD 1976
Home: Alpine, California
Profession: Attorney
Campaign Website: www.gohunter08.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, Congressman Hunter did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Hunter has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Not a co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.²⁶²

Syringe exchange

- Voted for the amendment to reinstate the ban on locally funded syringe exchange programs in the District of Columbia.²⁶³
- Voted in 1998 for the funding ban on federal syringe exchange programs.²⁶⁴

Microbicides

- Not a co-sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.²⁶⁵

Prison prevention

- Not a co-sponsor of the Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act, which would allow for the distribution of condoms in federal prisons.²⁶⁶
- The Stop AIDS in Prison Act passed the House by a voice vote on September 25, 2007. No presidential candidate serving in the House co-sponsored the legislation.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Not a co-sponsor of ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.²⁶⁷

Ryan White CARE Act

- Voted for the 2000 and 2006 re-authorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.^{268,269}

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Voted to severely cut funding to HOPWA program in 1998.²⁷⁰
- Voted against increasing funding to HOPWA program in 1996.²⁷¹

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Voted in 1993 to prevent people living with HIV/AIDS from permanently immigrating into the United States.²⁷²
- Not a co-sponsor of HIV Nondiscrimination in Travel and Immigration Act, which would return to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the discretion to remove HIV and AIDS restrictions on entry, rather than Immigration and Customs Enforcement.²⁷³

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.²⁷⁴
- Voted for the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would permanently write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and prohibit federal and state governments from conferring marital status and “the legal incidents thereof” upon same-sex couples.²⁷⁵
- Voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of 2007, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.²⁷⁶
- Average rating of 1 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 101st to 109th Congresses.

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Not a co-sponsor of the Prevention Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth (PATHWAY) Act, which would eliminate the requirement to fund abstinence-only-until-marriage education as part of the United States’ global prevention initiative.²⁷⁷

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

Position unclear.

John McCain



Date of Birth: August 29, 1936
Current Position: U.S. Senator, 1987–present
Previous Service: Candidate for Republican Presidential Nomination, 2000 U.S. House of Representatives, 1983–1987
United States Navy 1958–1981
Education: U.S. Naval Academy, 1958
National War College, 1973
Home: Phoenix, Arizona
Profession: Military Officer, Politician
Campaign Website: www.exploremccain.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, Senator McCain did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- McCain has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Not a co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.²⁷⁸

Syringe exchange

Position unclear.

Microbicides

- Not a co-sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.²⁷⁹

Prison prevention

Position unclear.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Not a co-sponsor of ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.²⁸⁰

Ryan White CARE Act

- Co-sponsor of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.²⁸¹
- Did not co-sponsor the 2000 Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.²⁸²

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

Position unclear.

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Voted in 1993 to prevent people living with HIV/AIDS from permanently immigrating into the United States.²⁸³
- Voted in 1991 for an amendment to imprison HIV-positive health care workers who perform surgery.²⁸⁴
- Voted in 1991 for a Jesse Helms amendment to involuntarily test patients about to undergo surgery for HIV.²⁸⁵

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.²⁸⁶
- Voted against the first introduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in 1996, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.²⁸⁷
- Voted against the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2006, which would permanently write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and prohibit federal and state governments from conferring marital status and “the legal incidents thereof” upon same-sex couples.²⁸⁸
- Average rating of 27 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 102nd to 109th Congresses.

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

General global

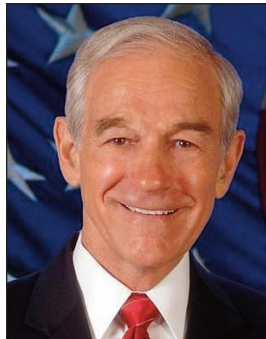
In an *Associated Press* article in August 2007, McCain said, “I think it’s more than just money, I think it’s behavior,” he told a woman who wanted him to promise \$50 billion over five years to fight global AIDS. McCain said he doesn’t think the Bush administration gets enough credit for

what it has down to stop the epidemic, but said the focus should be on urging governments in those countries act more responsibly.²⁸⁹

In a statement made on the floor of the Senate in 2003, McCain said, “The spread of HIV/AIDS, and the efforts of the international community to combat it, will be remembered by history as one of the defining issues of our time. The ethical implications of not doing everything in our power to slow the spread of this disease are severe. The most basic morality requires that we commit ourselves to combating HIV/AIDS everywhere.”²⁹⁰

In an article published by *Vanity Fair* magazine in the summer of 2007, McCain stated, “Fighting disease and extreme poverty in Africa is in America’s strategic and moral interests. If elected, I will fund AIDS treatment and prevention at levels befitting a wealthy and great nation, and establish a goal of eradicating malaria—the number one killer of African children under five—from the continent. I would link other forms of aid to good governance and economic reform, because no amount of assistance can succeed when governments fail their people.”²⁹¹

Ron Paul



Date of Birth: August 20, 1935
Current Position: U.S. House of Representatives, 1997–present
Previous Service: Libertarian candidate for president, 1988
U.S. House of Representatives,
22nd district of Texas, 1976, 1979–1985
Flight Surgeon, U.S. Air National Guard,
1965–1968
Flight Surgeon, U.S. Air Force, 1963–1965
Education: Gettysburg College, BA 1957
Duke University School of Medicine, MD 1961
Home: Lake Jackson, Texas
Profession: Surgeon
Campaign Website: www.ronpaul2008.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, Congressman Paul did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Paul has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Not a co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.²⁹²

Syringe exchange

- Voted in 2007 against the amendment to reinstate the ban on locally funded syringe exchange programs in the District of Columbia.²⁹³
- Voted in 2005 to permanently ban federal funding for local syringe exchange programs.

Microbicides

- Not a co-sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.²⁹⁴

Prison prevention

- Not a co-sponsor of the Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act, which would allow for the distribution of condoms in federal prisons.²⁹⁵

- The Stop AIDS in Prison Act passed the House by a voice vote on September 25, 2007. No presidential candidate serving in the House co-sponsored the legislation.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Co-sponsor of ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full-blown AIDS (only Republican presidential hopeful currently serving in Congress to do so).²⁹⁶

Ryan White CARE Act

- Voted against the 2006 re-authorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.²⁹⁷

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Voted to severely cut funding to HOPWA program in 1998.²⁹⁸

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Not a co-sponsor of HIV Nondiscrimination in Travel and Immigration Act, which would return to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the discretion to remove HIV and AIDS restrictions on entry, rather than Immigration and Customs Enforcement.²⁹⁹

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted against the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would permanently write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and prohibit federal and state governments from conferring marital status and “the legal incidents thereof” upon same-sex couples.³⁰⁰
- Average rating of 13 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 105th to 109th Congresses.

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Not a co-sponsor of the Prevention Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth (PATHWAY) Act, which would eliminate the requirement to fund abstinence-only-until-marriage education as part of the United States’ global prevention initiative.³⁰¹
- Voted to require abstinence-only-until-marriage education funding in PEPFAR.³⁰²

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

Position unclear.

Mitt Romney



Date of Birth: March 12, 1947
Previous Service: Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2003–2007
Chairman, Republican Governors Association
Education: Brigham Young University, BA 1971
Harvard Business School, MBA 1975
Harvard Law School, JD
Home: Belmont, MA
Profession: Businessman
Campaign Website: www.mittromney.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, former Governor Romney did not respond to the *AIDSVote.org* Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Romney has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- In 2005, Governor Romney cut \$28 million of state funding formerly dedicated to health education.³⁰³
- During his one term as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Romney's administration accepted nearly \$6.8 million in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.³⁰⁴

In a 1994 interview with *Bay Windows*, New England's largest gay and lesbian newspaper, Romney was asked about his stance on condom distribution in schools and replied, "I like important moral decisions being made closest to where people live, at the state and local level. So if the community feels that condom distribution is a helpful thing, then that community should be able to do that. And if another community feels that's something they don't support, then they should have that right to do that, as well."³⁰⁵

In a 2006 announcement of a new abstinence-only-until-marriage program in the Massachusetts schools (funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) Romney stated, "In my service as Governor, I've never had anyone complain to me that their kids are not learning enough about sex in school. However, a number of people have asked me why it is that we do not speak more about abstinence as a safe and preventive health practice. Abstinence education gives young people the support they need in making the decision to postpone sexual activity until they are mature enough to handle the emotional, moral and financial responsibilities of parenthood."³⁰⁶

Syringe exchange

- In 2006, following the passage in the Massachusetts legislature of a bill legalizing the purchase of syringes, Romney vetoed the bill despite a veto-proof majority in both houses.

On its passage a spokesman for Governor Romney stated, “Legalizing needles is like giving matches to an arsonist. It undermines our efforts to enforce the state’s drug laws, and it increases the likelihood that dirty and contaminated needles will end up on our beaches, parks, and playgrounds.”³⁰⁷

Microbicides

Position unclear.

Prison prevention

In a 1994 interview with *Bay Windows*, Romney was asked about his stance on condom distribution in federal prisons and replied, “I would support the conclusion of medical professionals and social workers in prisons as to what they thought was helpful to prevent the spread of the disease [AIDS]. If that was something they thought was appropriate, then I would support it. I don’t see any reason why that would be an inappropriate thing.”³⁰⁸

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

Position unclear.

Ryan White CARE Act

Position unclear.

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

Position unclear.

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Supports lifting the travel and immigration ban on HIV-positive entrants into the U.S. if they can pay for their own medical care.

When asked in 1994 if he opposed restricting the ability of people living with HIV from traveling or immigrating to the U.S., Romney stated, “I think it is a legitimate right of the government to say, ‘We don’t want to take on massive medical costs which we as a society would have to bear.’ On the other hand, I think it would be wrong to deny people who are HIV-positive access to the United States if there were no substantial costs to us. I would feel the same way, by the way, if someone came to the door who had cancer and was indigent and said, ‘I want to come to the United States.’ I’d say ‘Gee can you care for yourself?’ —because it’s a concern that our government would have that someone would come and cost our system a lot of money. If somebody has the ability to care for themselves then I see no reason to have restrictions on HIV or cancer or any other kind of patient.”³⁰⁹

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Opposes full marriage equality for same-sex couples.³¹⁰
- In 2002, gubernatorial candidate Mitt Romney and his Lieutenant Governor running mate Kerry Healey distributed a flyer at Boston's LGBT Pride stating, "Mitt and Kerry Wish You A Great Pride Weekend! All citizens deserve equal rights, regardless of their sexual preference."³¹¹
- In 2003, Romney disbanded the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes.³¹²
- Placed first in a presidential candidates straw poll conducted by the anti-gay Family Research Council at its 2007 Values Voter Summit. Gay issues were the top issue for over one-quarter of poll participants.³¹³

Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, at press time the front runner in Iowa, has been criticized for switching his position on legal abortion and gay rights. Our analysis of Romney's positions in 1994, when he unsuccessfully challenged Senator Ted Kennedy, and as governor of Massachusetts from 2003-2007 indicate dramatic shifts in HIV/AIDS policy positions as well as LGBT rights. As noted above, in 1994 Romney told *Bay Windows* that he supported lifting the ban on HIV+ immigrants if it were shown they would not burden the U.S. health care system. In 2005 Romney's Department of Public Health testified before the Massachusetts Senate in support of legalizing over-the-counter needle sales to stem the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C, yet when the legislature overwhelmingly adopted the proposal a year later Romney vetoed it. Romney's spokesman told the *Boston Globe* "that the governor did not agree with the health agency's position."³¹⁴

In a 1994 letter to the members of the Log Cabin Club of Massachusetts, Romney endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would have outlawed workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and said it should be expanded to include housing and credit. And he endorsed the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military as an interim step toward a complete lifting of the ban on gay service members, looking forward to the day when gay men and lesbian couples proudly serve openly.³¹⁵ Today, Romney opposes ENDA. He told the *National Review* in 2006, "I don't see the need for new or special legislation. My experience over the past several years as governor has convinced me that ENDA would be an overly broad law that would open a litigation floodgate and unfairly penalize employers at the hands of activist judges."³¹⁶ He also said he would maintain "Don't ask, don't tell" and not push for a full lifting of the ban, reversing the position he had articulated when seeking gay votes in the U.S. Senate race in 1994.³¹⁷

In a 1994 campaign speech during his Senate campaign, Romney ran to the ideological left of Senator Edward Kennedy on gay issues and stated, "If we are to achieve the goals we share, we must make equality for gays and lesbians a mainstream concern. My opponent cannot do this. I can and will."³¹⁸

In a 1994 letter to the Massachusetts chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, the gay and lesbian Republican group, Romney stated, "As a result of our discussions and other interactions with gay and lesbian voters across the state, I am more convinced than ever before that as we seek to establish full equality for America's gay and lesbian citizens, I will provide more effective leadership than my opponent." Romney continued in his letter, "We have discussed a number of important issues such as the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which I have agreed to co-sponsor, and if possible broaden to include housing and credit, and the bill to create a federal panel to find ways to reduce gay and lesbian youth suicide, which I also support. One issue I want to clarify concerns President Clinton's 'don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' military policy. I believe that the Clinton compromise was a step in the right direction. I am also convinced that it is the first of a number of steps that will ultimately lead to gays and lesbians being able to serve openly and honestly in our nation's military. That goal will only be reached when preventing discrimination against gays and lesbians is a mainstream concern, which is a goal we share."³¹⁹

In 2004, as Congress was considering the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment, Governor Romney stated, “I agree with the President on the need for a federal marriage amendment that defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. As I’ve said before, amending the U.S. Constitution may be the best and most reliable way to prevent a patchwork of inconsistent marriage laws between states and to guard against overreaching by the judicial branch.”³²⁰

During a speech at the 2004 Republican National Convention Romney spoke out once again on same-sex marriage, remarking, “Throughout our history, when our country needed us, Americans have stepped forward, standing up to every challenge. We step forward by expressing tolerance and respect for all God’s children, regardless of their differences and choices. At the same time, because every child deserves a mother and a father, we step forward by recognizing that marriage is between a man and a woman.”³²¹

In a 2006 exclusive interview with Romney conducted by the *National Review*, when asked about the letter to Log Cabin Republicans 12 years earlier and whether or not he still supports those positions today, Romney stated, “No. I don’t see the need for new or special legislation. My experience over the past several years as governor has convinced me that ENDA would be an overly broad law that would open a litigation floodgate and unfairly penalize employers at the hands of activist judges. As for military policy and the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy, I trust the counsel of those in uniform who have set these policies over a dozen years ago. I agree with President Bush’s decision to maintain this policy and I would do the same.”³²²

In a speech to the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family in October 2007, Romney commented on same-sex in Massachusetts saying, “The Court’s error I believe was that it focused on adult rights—if heterosexual couples can marry, it reasoned, then to have equal rights, homosexual couples should also be able to marry. But they forgot that one of the primary purposes of marriage is the development and nurturing of children. Every child deserves a mother and a father.”³²³

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

Position unclear.

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

At a campaign rally in Ottumwa, Iowa in June 2007, Romney remarked, “We are all created by God, and when so many are suffering, we must help our neighbors in need. Extreme poverty and AIDS in Africa represent a global crisis. We must build on America’s historic efforts to bring hope and build a safe world. This requires bringing the same focus and unified action to efforts that show America’s heart as we do to those showing America’s military might. New partnerships with the international community, private sector, and African leaders can mobilize the power of our health-care, education, and development efforts, and build sustainable solutions vital to Africa and the world.”³²⁴

In an article published by *Vanity Fair* magazine in the summer of 2007, Romney stated, “Global health diplomacy . . . will help us restore our standing in the world. Others value our health system and technology. . . We should do this to spread goodness and modernity in Africa. Working to fight AIDS is good, not just in Africa though, we need to communicate that we’re great and good to our world.”³²⁵

Tom Tancredo



Date of Birth: December 20, 1945
Current Position: U.S. House of Representatives, 1999–present
Previous Service: Secretary of Education Regional Representative, 1981–1992
Colorado State Legislature, 1976–1981
Education: University of Northern Colorado, BA 1968
Home: Littleton, Colorado
Profession: Teacher
Campaign Website: www.teamtancredo.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, Congressman Tancredo did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Tancredo has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Not a co-sponsor of the Prevention First Act, which would provide our nation's youth with accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use in order to reduce unintended pregnancies, abortions, and disease transmission.³²⁶

Syringe exchange

- Voted for the amendment to reinstate the ban on locally funded syringe exchange programs in the District of Columbia.³²⁷

Microbicides

- Not a co-sponsor of the Microbicide Development Act, which would promote research and development of microbicides as an effective barrier to HIV transmission.³²⁸

Prison prevention

- Not a co-sponsor of the Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act, which would allow for the distribution of condoms in federal prisons.³²⁹
- The Stop AIDS in Prison Act passed the House by a voice vote on September 25, 2007. No presidential candidate serving in the House co-sponsored the legislation.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Not a co-sponsor of ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.³³⁰

Ryan White CARE Act

- Voted for the 2000 and 2006 re-authorizations of the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

Position unclear.

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

- Not a co-sponsor of HIV Nondiscrimination in Travel and Immigration Act, which would return to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the discretion to remove HIV and AIDS restrictions on entrants, rather than Immigration and Customs Enforcement.³³¹

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would permanently write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and prohibit federal and state governments from conferring marital status and “the legal incidents thereof” upon same-sex couples.³³²
- Voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of 2007, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.³³³
- Average rating of 10 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 106th to 109th Congresses.

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

- Not a co-sponsor of the Prevention Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth (PATHWAY) Act, which would eliminate the requirement to fund abstinence-only-until-marriage education as part of the United States’ global prevention initiative.³³⁴
- Voted to require abstinence-only-until-marriage education funding in PEPFAR.³³⁵

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

- Co-sponsored U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2002, seeking to increase assistance to foreign countries seriously affected by the diseases.³³⁶

Fred Thompson



Date of Birth: August 19, 1942
Previous Service: U.S. Senate, 1994–2003
Tennessee Appellate Court Nominating Commission, 1985–1987
Minority Counsel to Senate Watergate Committee, 1973–1974
Assistant U.S. Attorney, 1969–1972
Education: Memphis State, BA 1964
Vanderbilt, JD 1967
Home: Nashville, TN
Profession: Actor, Attorney, Lobbyist
Campaign Website: www.fred08.com

ON THE ISSUES...

Please note, former Senator Thompson did not respond to the AIDSvote.org Presidential Candidates Questionnaire.

NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

- Thompson has not committed to creating and implementing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

PREVENTION

Abstinence-only funding, comprehensive sex education

- Voted to retain a provision of the Budget Act that funds abstinence education at \$75 million.³³⁷

Syringe exchange

Position unclear.

Microbicides

Position unclear.

Prison prevention

Position unclear.

TREATMENT/CARE

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)

- Did not co-sponsor ETHA, which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive and have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS. (107th Congress)³³⁸

Ryan White CARE Act

- Did not co-sponsor the 2000 Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which serves as the largest funding source for HIV/AIDS treatment domestically.³³⁹

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

Position unclear.

CIVIL RIGHTS

People living with HIV/AIDS

Position unclear.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community

- Voted for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.³⁴⁰
- Voted against the first introduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in 1996, which would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.³⁴¹
- Opposes civil unions and same-sex marriage.³⁴²
- Average rating of 15 on the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard, 104th to 107th Congresses.

When asked about his stance on civil unions on the campaign trail in New Hampshire in October 2007, Thompson responded, “I would not be in support of that.” He went on to criticize same-sex marriage, calling it “a judge-made controversy.”³⁴³

When asked in November 2007 about his stance on same-sex marriage and a state’s right to allow such unions, by host Tim Russert on “Meet the Press,” Thompson replied, “But, at the end of the day, if a state legislature and a governor decide that that’s what they want to do, yes, they should have, they, they should have the freedom to do what Fred Thompson thinks is a very bad idea.”³⁴⁴

CURE

HIV vaccine development

- In 1994, when Thompson first ran for the Senate from Tennessee, he completed a survey from Project Vote Smart and indicated that he would slightly decrease funding for AIDS research.³⁴⁵

GLOBAL

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and abstinence-only earmark

Position unclear.

Comprehensive plan for global epidemic

Position unclear.

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES 101ST–110TH CONGRESSES (FIRST SESSION) 1989–2007

110TH CONGRESS

(January 3, 2007–January 3, 2009)

Current Legislation in both the Senate and the House

Microbicide Development Act, S. 823, H.R. 1420

Microbicides, both vaginal and rectal, are a new class of topical products under development that could reduce the risk of transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Researchers estimate that a safe and effective microbicide could be available within five to seven years and that even a partially effective microbicide could avert 2.5 million new HIV infections worldwide in women, men, and children within three years. The Microbicide Development Act (MDA) would coordinate the research and development effort among federal agencies and increase funding for research.

Sponsorship

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Senate Primary Sponsor: | Obama |
| Senate Co-sponsors: | Clinton, Dodd |
| House Co-sponsors: | None of the Candidates serving in the House |

Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, S. 972, H.R. 1653

Despite extensive research showing the ineffectiveness of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, Congress has allotted over \$1 billion dollars to abstinence-only education since 1996. Studies have consistently shown that comprehensive sex education helps youth to make healthy decisions about sex. Youth who receive accurate information about contraception and condoms are more likely than their counterparts who receive abstinence-only messages to make use of contraceptives when they become sexually active. The REAL Act would provide a federal grant program for states for comprehensive sex education and would allow states to secure this funding without having to promise to teach abstinence-only curricula.

Sponsorship

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Senate Co-sponsor: | Dodd (109th Congress) |
| House Co-sponsor: | Kucinich |

Prevention First Act, S. 21, H.R. 819

The Prevention First Act would provide a comprehensive approach to expand health care access for preventative health care services and improve access to women's health care, using a wide range of approaches. The Prevention First Act is an omnibus bill incorporating the text of the Responsible Education About Life Act (REAL Act), as well as the Unintended Pregnancy Reduction Act, the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act, and other bills seeking to expand access to preventive health care services that would reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortion, and improve women's health care by creating grants for states for comprehensive sex education programs and other education measures.

Sponsorship

Senate Co-sponsors:

Biden, Clinton, Dodd, Obama

House Co-sponsors:

Kucinich

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA), S. 860, HR. 3326

Early access to care and treatment can delay the progression from HIV to full-blown AIDS. Currently, in many states, low-income HIV-positive individuals who have not progressed to an AIDS diagnosis are ineligible for Medicaid coverage that could significantly improve their health and give them access to essential treatment. ETHA would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements to extend Medicaid coverage to the option to provide Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV-positive Americans living below the poverty level. The Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) has been introduced in the 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, and 110th Congresses.

Sponsorship

Senate Co-sponsor:

Clinton, Dodd, Obama

House Co-sponsor:

Kucinich (previous Congresses only), Paul

African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007, S.805, H.R.3812

The African Health Capacity Investment Act seeks to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

Sponsorship

Senate Co-sponsor:

Biden, Clinton, Dodd, Obama

House Co-sponsor:

Kucinich

*Current Legislation in the Senate only***HIV Prevention Act, S. 1553**

The United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 requires that 33% of HIV prevention funds given to developing countries through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) be dedicated to abstinence-only programs. The HIV Prevention Act of 2007 would permanently strike this one-third abstinence-only funding restriction from PEPFAR funding.

Sponsorship

Co-sponsor:

Biden, Clinton, Dodd, Obama

*Current Legislation in the House only***Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed Act (JUSTICE Act), H.R. 178**

Prevention efforts in U.S. prisons are stymied by the unavailability of condoms—a critical factor in fueling HIV transmission. Inconsistencies between stated policy and institutional practice have long hindered the development of effective HIV prevention and treatment policy in U.S. prisons. The JUSTICE Act would permit community organizations to distribute condoms in federal

prisons and recommend that states allow the same practice. It would also call for annual review of prevention policies for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in federal and state correctional facilities.

Sponsorship

Co-sponsor: Kucinich

Protection Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth Act (PATHWAY Act), H.R. 1713

In most countries that receive HIV/AIDS funding from the United States, it is women who bear the brunt of the epidemic. Many contract HIV in the context of marriage. Yet, the ABC model—“Abstain, Be faithful, use Condoms”—promoted by the United States, does not recognize the reality of women’s lives in the U.S. or abroad. It fails women and youth who may not be able to negotiate whether or not they have sex and/or whether or not they use a condom. The PATHWAY Act would mandate the President and the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) to establish a comprehensive and integrated HIV prevention strategy addressing the distinct vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection. It would also strike the earmark requiring that one-third of all prevention funding be allocated to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and would remove ideological restrictions on HIV prevention policies.

Sponsorship

Co-sponsor: Kucinich

HIV Nondiscrimination in Travel and Immigration Act, H.R. 3337

For 20 years, U.S. policy has banned HIV-positive non-citizens from entering the country and barred those already living here from attaining most types of legal status. This policy is a violation of human rights and a threat to individual and public health inside and outside the U.S. It forces HIV+ immigrants to go underground, discourages immigrants who don’t know their status from getting tested, from seeking preventive care and from seeking any care until they end up in the emergency room with full blown AIDS. In 1993, Congress blocked the Department of Health and Human Services from overturning the bar by writing the HIV-ban into law, against the recommendations of the World Health Organization, and the American Medical Association. The HIV Nondiscrimination in Travel and Immigration Act of 2007, would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, striking the provision that renders people with HIV inadmissible to the U.S., and returning authority for that determination to HHS. The bill would mandate an HHS review of all policies regarding the continued listing of HIV/AIDS as grounds for inadmissibility. HHS would then be required to report its findings to Congress and to make them available to the public. However, the legislation would neither lift the HIV ban nor provide relief to HIV+ non-green card holding residents or travelers.

Sponsorship

Co-sponsor: Kucinich

Stop AIDS in Prison Act, H.R. 1943*

The Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2007 mandates the federal Bureau of Prisons to devise regulations for counseling, testing and care related to HIV within federal correctional facilities. This bill seeks to expand availability of HIV medications and quality care for inmates who are HIV-positive.

The bill passed the House by a voice vote on September 25, 2007.

No candidates were listed as co-sponsors.

* GMHC did not support this bill, due to concerns that HIV testing would be mandatory unless prisoners opt out of the test. Often, prisoners do not feel they can exercise their right to opt out of testing because of the imbalance of power that exists between inmates and correctional officers and prison medical personnel. The bill also does not provide strong confidentiality protection for inmates, which may put them at risk for violence within the prison if their HIV status is revealed.

Souder Amendment, H. AMDT. 466 to H.R. 2829

Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN) introduced an amendment to the Financial Services Appropriations Bill that would have reinstated the local funding ban for syringe exchange programs in the The amendment was narrowly defeated on June 28, 2007, by a vote of 208–216.

Voted with the HIV/AIDS community: Kucinich, Paul
Voted against the HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Tancredo

Pitts Amendment, H. AMDT. 364 to the Foreign Appropriations Bill, H.R. 2764

The Foreign Appropriations Bill for 2008 was introduced without the provision requiring 33% of HIV/AIDS prevention funding through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) be used for abstinence-only and fidelity promotion programs. An amendment was introduced by Rep. Joseph Pitts (R-PA) in an effort to restore the provisions for abstinence and fidelity promotion programs. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 200-226.

Voted with the HIV/AIDS Community: Kucinich
Voted against the HIV/AIDS community: Paul, Tancredo
Did not vote: Hunter

109TH CONGRESS

(January 3, 2005–January 3, 2007)

Legislation in both the Senate and the House

Federal Marriage Amendment, S.J. Res. 1, H.J. Res. 88

The Federal Marriage Amendment would permanently write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and it would prohibit federal and state governments from conferring marital status and “the legal incidents thereof” upon same-sex couples. The amendment would also endanger civil unions and domestic partnership benefits. The amendment failed by a vote of 49-48, falling 11 votes short of the 60 necessary to invoke cloture, a procedural motion to advance to a vote on the substance of the bill (Roll Call Vote 163, 2nd Session). The amendment would have needed 67 votes (two-thirds majority) to pass. (Yes — 2 Democrats/47 Republicans; No—40 Democrats/7 Republicans/1 Independent)

Senate

Voted with the LGBT community: Biden, Clinton, McCain, Obama
Voted against the LGBT community: None of the Candidates serving in the Senate
Did not vote: Dodd

House

Voted with the LGBT community: Kucinich, Paul
Voted against the LGBT community: Hunter, Tancredo

Legislation in the Senate only

International Cooperation to Meet the Millennium Development Goals Act, S. 1315

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, the United States joined more than 180 other countries in committing to work toward goals to improve life for the world's poorest people by 2015. This act was introduced and passed in the Senate in 2005 to remind the U.S. leadership of its previous financial commitment to development efforts in other nations, facilitate debt cancellation for the most indebted countries, and continue the international fight against HIV and AIDS by fully funding its international initiatives. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Co-sponsor: Obama

Legislation in the House only

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006**

The Ryan White CARE Act represented the largest and most critical funding source for domestic HIV and AIDS treatment and services in the U.S. Previously, Ryan White funds were distributed to larger cities and states where the epidemic had been most prevalent. In response to the needs of other areas in need of HIV/AIDS funding, such as Southern states and rural areas, the 2005-06 reauthorization, entitled the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Modernization Act, sought to redistribute funds throughout the country. This change benefited many states that had previously not been able to receive the funds they needed for HIV treatment and care.

Voted with the HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Kucinich, Tancredo
Voted against the HIV/AIDS community: Paul

** The unfortunate result of the overall funding decisions in this legislation was a significant cut in Ryan White funding for a number of Title I and Title II (predominantly urban) jurisdictions that continue to be at the center of the epidemic. This adversely affected many jurisdictions including New York City, Los Angeles, New Jersey, and San Francisco, as well as significant portions of the nation's minority community. GMHC does not consider a vote against the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act as an indication of a candidate's overall support for HIV and AIDS treatment and care.

108TH CONGRESS

(January 3, 2003–January 3, 2005)

Legislation in both the Senate and the House

Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA), S. 847, H.R.3859

Early access to care and treatment can delay the progression from HIV to full-blown AIDS. Currently, in many states, low-income HIV-positive individuals who have not progressed to an

AIDS diagnosis are ineligible for Medicaid coverage that could significantly improve their health and give them access to essential treatment. ETHA would offer states the option to provide Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV-positive Americans living below the poverty level.

Senate Co-sponsors: Clinton, Edwards
House Co-sponsor: Kucinich

107TH CONGRESS

(January 3, 2001–January 3, 2003)

Legislation in both the Senate and the House

United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2002, S.2525, H.R.2069

This Act was introduced to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for foreign countries seriously affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. It gave funding and programmatic direction to the Department of Health and Human Services and also to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to act internationally with respect to prevention efforts for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The bill directed special provisions focusing on prevention for young people, women, and children at risk of and infected with HIV. The bill passed both the House and the Senate.

Sponsorship

Senate Co-sponsors: Biden, Dodd
House Co-sponsor: Tancredo

Legislation in the Senate only

International AIDS Treatment and Prevention Act of 2002, S.2649

A bill to provide assistance to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic in developing foreign countries. This bill was introduced into the Senate and then was reported in committee with recommendations for a favorable substitute bill. Eventually was incorporated into S. 2525 (see above).

Sponsorship

Senate Co-sponsors: Clinton, Dodd, Edwards

106TH CONGRESS

(January 3, 1999–January 3, 2001)

Legislation in both the Senate and the House

Ryan White CARE Act re-authorization, S. 2311, H.R.

Co-sponsorship of Ryan White re-authorization, introduced March 29, 2000. The Ryan White CARE Act represents the largest and most critical discretionary federal investment in HIV/AIDS

treatment. 52 Co-sponsors total (Democrats–34; Republicans–18). House vote 411 to 0, with 22 not voting.

Senate

Voted with the HIV/AIDS community: Biden, Dodd, Edwards

Voted against the HIV/AIDS community: McCain, Thompson

House

Voted with the HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Kucinich, Tancredo

Did not vote: Paul

Legislation in the House only

American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, including reauthorization for the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program (HOPWA)

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS was finally reauthorized in 2000, five years after it had expired. The HOPWA program was not only reauthorized by this bill, but funding was increased by an amendment and requested by the House at \$43 million higher for FY 2001 than the spending levels for FY 2000 and was agreed to by voice vote on April 6, 2000.

No candidates were listed as co-sponsors.

Souder Amendment to H.R. 4942

On September 14, 2000, the House of Representatives passed an amendment introduced by Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN), which would prohibit locally raised funds in Washington, DC from being used to operate a syringe exchange program. The amendment passed 239 to 181 (Yes–42 Democrats/196 Republicans; No–160 Democrats/20 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Kucinich

Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Paul, Tancredo

105TH CONGRESS

(January 3, 1997–January 3, 1999)

Legislation in the Senate only

Satcher Nomination to be U.S. Surgeon General

On February 10, 1998 the Senate confirmed Dr. David Satcher to be the U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health by a vote of 63 to 35. (Yes–44 Democrats/19 Republicans; No–0 Democrats/35 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Biden, Dodd, McCain, Thompson

Voted against HIV/AIDS community: None of the Candidates serving in the Senate

Legislation in the House only

Federal Funding Ban for Syringe Exchange Programs, H.R. 3717

Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY) introduced a bill that would permanently ban federal funding for local syringe exchange programs. This passed the House on April 29, 1998 by a vote of 287 to 140. (Yes–74 Democrats/213 Republicans; No–128 Democrats/11 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Kucinich
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Paul

HOPWA Appropriations Amendment to H.R. 4194

Rep. Van Hilleary (R-TN) introduced an amendment to take away \$21 million in HOPWA funding from the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. This amendment passed the House on July 29, 1998 by a vote of 231 to 200. (Yes–47 Democrats/184 Republicans; No–157 Democrats/42 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Kucinich
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Paul

104TH CONGRESS

(January 3, 1995–January 3, 1997)

Legislation in both the Senate and the House

Defense of Marriage Act, H.R.3396 (Final Passage)

Introduced by Rep. Bob Barr (R-GA) in the House and Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK) in the Senate, aimed against same-sex marriage, despite the fact that no state at the time allowed marriage for same-sex couples. The bill passed the House on July 12, 1996 by a vote of 342 to 67. (Yes–118 Democrats/224 Republicans; No–65 Democrats/1 Republican); and passed the Senate on September 10, 1996 by a vote of 85 to 14. (Yes–31 Democrats/54 Republicans; No–14 Democrats/0 Republicans)

Senate

Voted with gay and lesbian community: None of the Candidates serving in the Senate
Voted against gay and lesbian community: Biden, Dodd, McCain, Thompson

House

Voted with gay and lesbian community: None of the Candidates serving in the House
Voted against gay and lesbian community: Hunter, Richardson

Legislation in the Senate only

Helms anti-gay amendment to Ryan White

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) introduced an amendment to the Ryan White CARE Act re-authorization to cut off funding to local gay community health centers providing HIV/AIDS care. The amendment passed on July 27, 1995 by a vote of 54 to 45. (Yes–14 Democrats/40 Republicans; No–32 Democrats/13 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Biden, Dodd
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: McCain, Thompson

Employment Non-Discrimination Act (First Introduction)

ENDA prohibits anti-gay discrimination in the workplace. Upon its very first introduction in the Senate, the bill was defeated by one vote on September 10, 1996 by a vote of 49 to 50. ENDA supporter Sen. David Pryor (D-AR) was absent from the Senate due to a family emergency. Vice President Al Gore was on standby to cast a tie-breaking vote and would have voted for its passage. (Yes—41 Democrats/8 Republicans; No—7 Democrats/43 Republicans)

Voted with gay and lesbian community: Biden, Dodd
Voted against gay and lesbian community: McCain, Thompson

Legislation in the House only

AIDS Training for Federal Workers

Amendment by Rep. David Hobson (R-OH) to the Treasury Department appropriations bill, H.R. 2020, to maintain federal AIDS prevention programs that provide accurate information about HIV transmission. On July 19, 1995 the amendment was defeated by a vote of 201 to 223. (Yes—159 Democrats/41 Republicans; No—34 Democrats/189 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Richardson
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter

Increase to funding for Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

Amendment by Rep. Christopher Shays (R-CT) to increase HOPWA funding by \$15 million in the Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 177 to 236. (Yes—126 Democrats/50 Republicans; No—28 Democrats/178 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: None of the Candidates serving in the House
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Richardson

103RD CONGRESS

(January 3, 1993–January 3, 1995)

Legislation in both the Senate and the House

HIV Immigration Ban, H.R.887

The Senate voted on February 18, 1993 and the House voted on March 11, 1993 to prohibit the permanent immigration of HIV+ individuals into the United States. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 76 to 23. (Yes—34 Democrats/42 Republicans; No—22 Democrats/1 Republican); and the bill passed the House by a vote of 356 to 58. (Yes—185 Democrats/171 Republicans; No—57 Democrats/0 Republicans)

Senate

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Dodd
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Biden, McCain

House

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: None of the Candidates serving in the House
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter, Richardson

Legislation in the Senate only

Elders Nomination to be U.S. Surgeon General

On September 7, 1993 the Senate confirmed Dr. Joycelyn Elders to be the U.S. Surgeon General by a vote of 65 to 34. (Yes—52 Democrats/13 Republicans; No—4 Democrats/30 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Biden, Dodd
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: McCain

102ND CONGRESS

(January 3, 1991–January 3, 1993)

Legislation in the Senate only

Punishment of HIV-positive Health Care Workers

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) introduced an amendment to fine and imprison for no less than ten years HIV+ health care workers who perform surgery. The amendment passed on July 18, 1991 by a vote of 81 to 18.

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: None of the Candidates serving in the Senate
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Biden, Dodd, McCain

Non-Consensual HIV Testing

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) introduced an amendment allowing health care professionals to test patients for HIV prior to surgery without their consent. The amendment passed on July 30, 1991 by a vote of 55 to 44.

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Biden, Dodd
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: McCain

Legislation in the House only

Cut funding to the National Institutes of Health

Rep. Dannemeyer (R-CA) introduced an amendment to cut funding to HIV/AIDS research from the National Institute of Health (NIH) budget. The amendment failed by a vote of 132 to 283.

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Richardson
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter

101ST CONGRESS

(January 3, 1989–January 3, 1991)

Legislation in the House only

HIV/AIDS Discrimination in Food Handling

Rep. Chapman (D-TX) offered an amendment allowing employers in the food handling industry to discriminate against HIV+ workers. The amendment passed on May 17, 1990 by a vote of 199 to 187. (Yes–79 Democrats/120 Republicans; No–156 Democrats/31 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Richardson
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter

Mandatory Names Reporting

Reps. Rowland (D-GA) and Waxman (D-CA) offered an amendment that would block a provision requiring states to report names of people who test HIV+. The amendment passed on June 13, 1990 by a vote of 312 to 113. (Yes–242 Democrats/70 Republicans; No–10 Democrats/103 Republicans)

Voted with HIV/AIDS community: Richardson
Voted against HIV/AIDS community: Hunter

Hate Crimes Statistics Act

This bill required the Department of Justice to collect statistics on violent crime based on prejudice for several enumerated categories (i.e. ethnicity, national origin) and for the first time in federal law explicitly categorizing sexual orientation. The bill passed on June 27, 1990 by a vote of 368 to 47. (Yes–241 Democrats/127 Republicans; No–4 Democrats/43 Republicans)

Voted with gay and lesbian community: Richardson
Voted against gay and lesbian community: Hunter

U.S. ELECTORAL COLLEGE 2008 LIST OF STATES AND NUMBER OF ELECTORAL VOTES

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| <i>Alabama</i> | 9 | <i>Montana</i> | 3 |
| <i>Alaska</i> | 3 | <i>Nebraska</i> | 5 |
| <i>Arizona</i> | 10 | <i>Nevada</i> | 5 |
| <i>Arkansas</i> | 6 | New Hampshire | 4 |
| California | 55 | New Jersey | 15 |
| <i>Colorado</i> | 9 | <i>New Mexico</i> | 5 |
| Connecticut | 7 | New York | 31 |
| Delaware | 3 | <i>North Carolina</i> | 15 |
| District Of Columbia | 3 | <i>North Dakota</i> | 3 |
| <i>Florida</i> | 27 | <i>Ohio</i> | 20 |
| <i>Georgia</i> | 15 | <i>Oklahoma</i> | 7 |
| Hawaii | 4 | Oregon | 7 |
| <i>Idaho</i> | 4 | Pennsylvania | 21 |
| Illinois | 21 | Rhode Island | 4 |
| <i>Indiana</i> | 11 | <i>South Carolina</i> | 8 |
| <i>Iowa</i> | 7 | <i>South Dakota</i> | 3 |
| <i>Kansas</i> | 6 | <i>Tennessee</i> | 11 |
| <i>Kentucky</i> | 8 | <i>Texas</i> | 34 |
| <i>Louisiana</i> | 9 | <i>Utah</i> | 5 |
| Maine | 4 | Vermont | 3 |
| Maryland | 10 | <i>Virginia</i> | 13 |
| Massachusetts | 12 | Washington | 11 |
| Michigan | 17 | <i>West Virginia</i> | 5 |
| Minnesota | 10 | Wisconsin | 10 |
| <i>Mississippi</i> | 6 | <i>Wyoming</i> | 3 |
| <i>Missouri</i> | 11 | | |

Total: 538; Majority Needed to Elect: 270

Bold: States won by Democratic Candidate John Kerry in 2004 (19 + District of Columbia).

Italics: States won by Republican Candidate George W. Bush in 2004 (31).

Gay Men's Health Crisis is a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported and community-based organization committed to national leadership in the fight against AIDS. Our mission is to:

- reduce the spread of HIV disease,
- help people with HIV maintain and improve their health and independence, and
- keep the prevention, treatment and cure of HIV an urgent national and local priority.

In fulfilling this mission we will remain true to our heritage by fighting homophobia and affirming the individual dignity of all gay men and lesbians.

For more information, please call the Hotline or visit our Web site.

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Designed by Adam Zachary Fredericks

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