

Chair
Michael Montgomery
California
(916) 449-5905

Vice-Chair
Kevin Cranston
Massachusetts
(617) 624-5303

Chair-Elect
Jack Jourden
Washington
(360) 236-3466

Secretary-Treasurer
Patricia Young
Iowa
(515) 242-5838

Kip Beardsley
Minnesota

Michael Budor
Indiana

Humberto Cruz
New York

Lisa Daniel
Kentucky

Evelyn Foust
North Carolina

Thomas Liberzi
Florida

Paul Lobert
Rhode Island

Sharon Rentar
Wyoming

Felipe Rocha
Texas

Deb Szejda
Michigan

Don Torres
New Mexico

Jim Vergeron
Wisconsin

James Welch
Delaware

Peter Whiticar
Hawaii

Anne Williamson
Idaho

Ex-officio
Beth Scalco
Louisiana

Executive Director
Julie M. Scofield

November 2, 2005

The Honorable Eliot Engel
United States House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

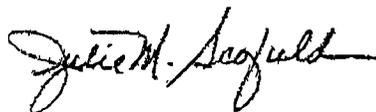
On behalf of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), whose members administer state HIV prevention and care programs nationwide, I am writing to thank you for offering the "Early Treatment for HIV Act" as an amendment to H.R. 3010. We particularly want to highlight the hard work of your staffer, Emily Gibbons, on your behalf.

As you know, the Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) would allow states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover HIV positive individuals, before they become disabled, without having to receive a waiver. NASTAD believes this legislation would allow HIV positive individuals to access the medical care that is widely recommended, can postpone or avoid the onset of AIDS, and can enormously increase the quality of life for people living with HIV.

State AIDS directors continue to develop innovative and cost-effective HIV/AIDS programs in the face of devastating state budget cuts and federal contributions that fail to keep up with need. ETHA provides a solution to states by increasing health care access for those living with HIV/AIDS. ETHA will also save states money in the long-run by treating HIV positive individuals earlier in the disease's progression and providing states with a federal match for the millions of dollars they are presently spending on HIV/AIDS care.

Thank you very much for your continued commitment to persons living with HIV/AIDS. I look forward to working with you to gain support for this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Julie M. Scofield
Executive Director