

File Number

04-0002

Last Changed Date

4/23/2004

Title

ACCESS TO LIFE SAVING HIV/AIDS MEDICATIONS

Initiated By

LaBonge Mover 2003 / Garcetti

Subject

Resolution - WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and WHEREAS, as many as 124,305 Californians may be living with AIDS or HIV infection and it is estimated that an additional 8,000-9,000 people in the State are infected with the HIV virus each year; and

WHEREAS, new therapies for treating HIV and opportunistic infections have helped people with HIV and AIDS to live longer and healthier lives, and the number of California residents living with AIDS has increased approximately 32 percent since 1998; and

WHEREAS, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (**ADAP**) provides critical, life-saving medications to 26,000 uninsured and under-insured people living with HIV in California; and WHEREAS, the Schwarzenegger Administration has proposed capping enrollment in AIDS Drug Assistance Program on January 1, 2004, and newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS patients would be placed on waiting lists for time-sensitive, life-preserving medications; and

WHEREAS, individuals with HIV/AIDS who are placed on waiting lists may die, as they have in other states with AIDS Drug Assistance Program waiting lists, or develop more serious conditions as a result of delayed treatment; and

WHEREAS, individuals who develop more serious conditions as a result of being placed on a waiting list for AIDS medication will require more expensive treatments and may be unable to work, resulting in greater reliance on public assistance and publicly funded emergency medical care, the cost of which will far outweigh the cost of providing necessary medications in a timely fashion through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, approximately 28,000 Californians living with AIDS depend on Medi-Cal for primary medical care and prescription coverage; and

WHEREAS, for every dollar cut from California's Medi-Cal program the State loses approximately one dollar of federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the Schwarzenegger Administration has proposed a ten percent cut to Medi-Cal reimbursement rates to physicians, in addition to the five percent cut last year; and

WHEREAS, less than half of the State's physicians are currently willing to accept Medi-Cal patients, and the additional proposed reduction will force many more providers to stop treating Medi-Cal patients, thereby denying access to treatment to many AIDS patients; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has failed to provide adequate funding to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program to meet the demands of increasing enrollment and states must supplement federal funds to bridge the gap between resources and need in this life-saving program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed AIDS Drug Assistance Program enrollment cap and reduction in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates constitute an emergency in AIDS funding in the State of California, which would dramatically impact residents of the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS prevention programs are equally important to reducing the human and financial costs of this disease in the State of California;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2004-2005 Federal and State Legislative Programs SUPPORT for immediate access to life-saving HIV/AIDS medications for the uninsured through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, SUPPORT for competitive Medi-Cal reimbursement rates, SUPPORT for maintaining or increasing current funding for AIDS prevention, and OPPOSES capping enrollment in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and further cuts to Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

Date Received

12/19/2003

File History

12-19-03 - This day's Council session

12-19-03 - Ref to Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee

12-19-03 - File to Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee Clerk

2-17-04 - Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee report ADOPTED, subject to the approval of the Mayor to ADOPT the accompanying Substitute Resolution which establishes the following positions in the City's 2004-2005 Federal and State Legislative Programs:

a. Support for immediate access to life-saving HIV/AIDS medications for the uninsured through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (**ADAP**).

b. Support for competitive Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

c. Support for maintaining or increasing current funding for AIDS prevention.

d. Opposition to capping enrollment in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

e. Opposition to cuts in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

2-17-04 - Resolution ADOPTED

2-19-04 - File to Mayor

2-26-04 - Mayor's message concurred in action of February 17, 2004

3-1-04 - File to Calendar Clerk

3-5-04 - File to Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee Clerk OK

3-5-04 - File in files