July 8, 2004 12:24 PM
206-957-1736

Dr. Julie Gerberding

Subject: Oppose New CDC Regulations

Dear Dr. Gerberding:

Please withdraw the proposed new CDC regulations that threaten proven effective HIV prevention efforts. Rather than promote comprehensive, science based prevention methods, these guidelines blatantly disregard tried and true programs, taking decision making powers away from the groups most familiar with the at-risk populations and placing it instead in the hands of ideologically motivated political appointees.

Further detrimental is the required inclusion of information on the ineffectiveness of condom use in preventing the spread of HIV and other STDs, regardless of the fact that most medical bodies state that in the absence of an HIV-preventing vaccine, the condom is the single most effective tool available to protect someone from contracting or spreading HIV. Teaching about condoms does not encourage sexual activity, just as many studies show that abstinence only programs do not lower the rate. Rather it is essential that the CDC continue to support models that are comprehensive in nature, catering to differing need and lifestyles.

Yours truly,

Russell Batten
625 Commerce, Suite 10
Tacoma, WA 98402