



Association of Nurses in AIDS Care Statement to
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

Contact person:

Carole Treston, RN MPH

Chief Nursing Officer Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

carole@anacnet.org

215-990-0163

November 7, 2014

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care strongly endorses and supports the Administration's emergency funding request for \$6.18 billion to support the United States' response to the Ebola crisis. This includes \$4.64 billion for the immediate response and \$1.54 billion for a contingency fund to ensure that there are resources available to meet the evolving nature of the epidemic.

As nurses, we advocate for high-quality, compassionate care to patients in need. We unequivocally advocate for the required and appropriate funding for the safe delivery of health care, appropriate evidence based public health measures and necessary investment in infrastructure and in prevention research. Critical to an effective widespread response is the continued volunteer efforts of nurses, physicians, and other health care workers in the international response. Their safety and appropriate evidence-based re-entry processes must be guaranteed. We are pleased that the Administration's funding request addresses our various concerns. This includes supporting and enhancing the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) represents nurses, nurse practitioners, and other health care providers worldwide concerned about HIV and HIV-related care. There are 40 ANAC chapters across the United States. We promote a comprehensive, holistic and evidence-based approach to quality health and HIV care, and advocate for policies grounded in a human rights approach to health. We are an organizational affiliate member of the American Nurses Association and an active member of The Nursing Community, the national coalition of nursing organizations. ANAC members work in various settings in the U.S and in other countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone. Some are leaders in the fight against Ebola in West Africa. Overall, nurses are at

the forefront of the Ebola response, both in the U.S and critically, in West Africa. We have represented nurses in HIV/AIDS care since 1987 and recognize parallels between the early AIDS epidemic and the current Ebola outbreak. This includes misinformation, stigma and the potential for policies and practices based in fear rather than science and evidence.

One critical difference now is the ability and the will to effectively address this disease with science based public health measures and compassionate care. In particular, we strongly advocate for the necessary investment in addressing the epidemic in West Africa, not only as a means to limiting the spread to the U.S., but also because it is our necessary humanitarian response.

Within the \$4.64 billion request for immediate assistance includes \$1.98 billion for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). We must appropriately fund the USAID to scale up the U.S. foreign assistance response to contain the Ebola crisis in West Africa and assist in the region's recovery from the epidemic. The request supports the medical and non-medical management of Ebola treatment units and community care facilities; provides them with personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies; helps establish the regional logistics network needed to support the international crisis response; increases the number of safe burial teams; addresses food insecurity and other second-order impacts in affected communities, such as adverse effects on maternal and child health; and bolsters community education efforts critical to prevent the spread of the disease. Investing in West Africa is critical to containing and ending the epidemic at the source. This is the way to prevent the spread to the US and the right and necessary thing to do.

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care calls on the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations to support the full funding request of the Administration and for Congress to pass the \$6.18 billion emergency funding request to support the U.S. government's response to Ebola domestically and internationally.