

Public Comment of Dr. Gene Copello
Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS
March 30, 2004
Washington, DC

Distinguished Council Members:

My name is Dr. Gene Copello. I am the Executive Director of The AIDS Institute and Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Ethics at the University of South Florida College of Medicine. Today, I am commenting on behalf of The AIDS Institute, which is a public policy research and advocacy organization.

The care and treatment challenges we face, domestically and globally, in regard to HIV/AIDS require all of us to be creative, innovative, accountable, and to work with a sense of real urgency. I am recommending the Council convene a meeting in which sufficient time can be dedicated to discuss longer-term solutions to ongoing domestic HIV financing and programmatic issues in care and treatment. While such a meeting would obviously address the Ryan White CARE Act, including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), the larger picture of service delivery and how its various components interact should be included.

The AIDS Institute has previously articulated the need for an informed discussion between government, community representatives, and experts in healthcare financing and service delivery about the future of the domestic HIV care and treatment system. We need innovation and creativity as we continue to live out the third decade of the U.S. epidemic. Bringing together a representative group of government leaders, community members, and financing and systems delivery experts is needed. This Council advises the President. With that role in mind, I am recommending this body convene such a meeting.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is expected to release its study on HIV financing in the near future. My recommendation is that the proposed meeting be held after the release of this document.

Thank you for your efforts to address the prevention, research, and care and treatment challenges we face, domestically and globally. I hope you will consider convening a meeting to focus on the future of our domestic HIV care and treatment delivery system.