



Statement on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing on the Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act by Jeanne White-Ginder on behalf of the Ryan White ACTION Campaign. Jeanne White-Ginder is the mother of the late Ryan White and board member of The AIDS Institute.

“We are pleased that the Senate, following the President’s reaffirmation of his commitment to the Ryan White CARE Act during his State of the Union speech, is moving forward on reauthorization by holding a hearing on March 1st. The Ryan White CARE Act provides lifesaving healthcare and treatment to over half a million low-income or uninsured Americans with HIV/AIDS. The Administration put forth their principles for a renewed CARE Act last year, but Congress allowed the current law to lapse on September 30, 2005. The ball is now in Congress’ court. They need to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act, and do so in a way that ensures funding reflects the actual needs of HIV/AIDS patients and their families throughout the country. Too many Americans, perhaps over 300,000 of them, are not receiving lifesaving drugs, and 40,000 new infections occur each year. We must make sure that people in this country get the basic medical and human services they need to battle this epidemic.”

Representatives of each of the members of the Ryan White ACTION Campaign (www.ryanwhiteaction.org) - The AIDS Institute, American Academy of HIV Medicine, HIV Medicine Association and the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors – are available for comment on the senate hearing. Please call Arlyn Riskind at 202-457-8100 to arrange an interview or to receive more information about the Ryan White ACTION Campaign.

