



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2007

Contact: Elena Temple
202-861-6719 (etemple@usmayors.org)
Ione Hess
202-861-6725 (ihess@usmayors.org)

Mayors Praise White House AIDS Initiative

Washington, D.C. – The United States Conference of Mayors today applauded President Bush’s announcement to spend \$ 30 billion during the first five years after September 2008, for the fight against AIDS around the world.

“The HIV/AIDS epidemic remains an enormous health emergency. And as a world leader, the United States must continue to allocate sufficient resources for programs to fight and prevent this disease,” said USCM Executive Director Tom Cochran, joining the call for Congress to expedite the approval for more funding.

Nevertheless the Conference is calling for a more aggressive approach by the federal government on the domestic front. Since 1985, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has provided over \$13.1 million in grants to local health departments and community-based organizations to implement HIV prevention and education programs. The goal of this effort is to strengthen the capacity of local service providers to carry out effective HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

The Conference of Mayors and the nation’s Mayors have been on the forefront of the domestic AIDS epidemic since the early 80’s. The mayors learned first-hand about the overwhelming impact of the AIDS epidemic on the African people during the Conference’s Mission to Africa in 2003.

“Twenty-five years ago, U.S. mayors were faced with the AIDS epidemic and they swiftly moved to educate the citizens of our nation on HIV/AIDS prevention and education. After our Africa fact-finding mission, U.S. Mayors gained a better understanding of the enormous impact that HIV/AIDS is having on the African Continent and the challenges that African Mayors face to combat this disease. We applaud President Bush’s leadership and courage in calling on Congress to increase funding for global AIDS initiatives,” Cochran concluded.

###

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.