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For Immediate Release

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CAMPAIGN TO END AIDS CARAVANS ROAR INTO WASHINGTON, D.C., THIS WEEKEND
FOR FOUR DAYS OF PROTESTS, PRAYER AND VISITS WITH LAWMAKERS

Congressional leaders to welcome riders, join fight for AIDS funding

After weeks on the road, events in more than 150 cities across the country, and coverage from the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and countless local media, nine caravans of AIDS activists with the **Campaign to End AIDS** will pull into Washington, D.C. this weekend for four “Days of Action.” Thousands of people with HIV and their supporters will take part in marches, prayer meetings, visits with lawmakers, and civil disobedience actions throughout the four days to demand that U.S. and world leaders make greater strides toward ending the AIDS epidemic.

The Campaign to End AIDS, or C2EA, is a new, national coalition endorsed by more than 400 organizations that believes the tools exist to end the AIDS epidemic but that governments must do more to make them available. Bringing together longtime HIV-positive people and veterans of the AIDS activist group ACT UP with more recently diagnosed Americans—many of them women, African Americans, Southerners and churchgoers—C2EA has four basic demands: 1) Fully fund treatment for people with HIV/AIDS worldwide; 2) boost efforts to find better treatments and a cure; 3) promote science-based HIV prevention; and 4) protect the rights of people with HIV/AIDS. More information on C2EA’s specific policy positions can be found at www.CampaigntoEndAIDS.org.

“We’ve had some incredible days on the road,” says HIV-positive Baptist minister and C2EA co-chair Charles King, whose caravan has been making a 21-day pedestrian trek from New York to Washington, D.C. “We owe it to those who have helped us on our journey to fight for people with HIV once we make it to D.C. First on our list is protecting endangered programs like Medicaid and the Ryan White Care Act, which hundreds of thousands of people with HIV depend on.”

The goings-on in D.C. are the culmination of months of planning and persistence in the face of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. (C2EA postponed its caravans for a month because of Katrina. Half of the money raised by C2EA this fall will go to HIV/AIDS organizations in the Gulf Coast region.) Throughout October, C2EA launched caravans in nine cities, including Portland, OR; Seattle; Oakland, CA; San Diego, CA; Los Angeles; Brownsville, TX; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Boston and New York. Travelers have been blogging about their journeys at <http://c2ea.blogspot.com/>.

Highlights of the “Days of Action” include a press conference with Congressional Black, Hispanic and Asian and Pacific American caucus leaders; an interfaith service at the esteemed Metropolitan AME Church featuring Rev. Ronald E. Braxton; a rally in Anacostia to highlight the impact of AIDS on black Washingtonians; visits to nearly every congressional office, a protest at the office of

Concerned Women for America, and civil disobedience at the White House. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, November 5

- Opening ceremony in Parking Lot 8A at RFK Stadium (2400 E. Capital St.), 11 am to noon
- March to Anacostia Park (1900 Anacostia Dr.), noon to 1pm
- Rally in Anacostia Park, featuring C2EA cochair Rev. Charles King, 2pm to 4pm

Sunday, November 6

- Interfaith service at Metropolitan AME Church (1518 M Street, NW), featuring Rev. Ronald E. Braxton and others, 3pm to 5pm
- “Don’t Keep Us in the Dark” Youth HIV Prevention Rally (Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park), 6:30pm, followed by march to White House, 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Monday, November 7

- Undisclosed civil disobedience action in the early morning (press to be alerted)
- “Campaign to Increase AIDS” awards ceremony (MacPherson Square, 15th and I Street), 11:30am, followed by a march to Concerned Women for America offices and non-violent civil disobedience at White House

Tuesday, November 8

- Press conference with Congressional Black, Hispanic and Asian and Pacific American Caucus leaders, including Rep. Michael Honda (D-CA), on the west side of the Capitol Building, 8:30am
- Visits to nearly every Congressional office and key members of the Bush administration, 9am to 2pm
- Closing ceremony (Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 E Capitol NE), 3pm to 5pm