



Richard M. Brodsky Foundation
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5k / AIDS / Cancer / Survive / Run / Walk
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April 09, 2008

The Honorable Senator Charles E. Schumer
145 Pine Lawn Road #300
Melville, NY 11747

Dear Senator Schumer:

My name is Eduardo Segovia Jr. I am a scientific researcher volunteering on behalf of the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation based in Atlantic Beach, New York. We are committed to raise awareness of the global epidemic of AIDS in the United States as well as internationally. The organization seeks to raise funding for scientific research for AIDS and cancer, provide housing for displaced children in Africa, procurement of AIDS medication for the underserved, and to fund other AIDS organizations. We have organized fundraising events such as the World AIDS Marathon in Kenya and Florida, 5K Fun Walk, and conference/exhibitions.

Currently we are in the process of updating our website in order to promote the 2008 5k / AIDS / Cancer / Survive / Run / Walk hosted in Long Island, New York. We hope to raise awareness and funding for this devastating disease that afflicts a large population living in Long Island, NY. There has been great controversy after funding was cut during the period after Ryan White Modernization Act of 2006 especially in Long Island, New York. I would like to request some clarification on various issues in order to accurately report to our audience on our website and for the upcoming 5k / AIDS / Cancer / Survive / Run / Walk in Long Island. This information is very important to report accurately so that those stricken with HIV/AIDS can take responsibility for their well being and so that they can be aware of the many programs available to them. Our common goal along with many other AIDS foundations is to educate individuals on how to receive the best possible treatment and how to experience a better quality of life. I would like to take this time to ask the following questions and hopefully get some clarification in regards to Ryan White Funding.

From my understanding of the US Department of Health and Human Services website is that Long Island is no longer an eligible metropolitan area since it has not reported 2,000 new AIDS cases over the five year period from 2001-2006. However, it does comply with the other requirement that there must be 3,000 existing AIDS cases.

- Are the above numbers accurately stated? Do they take into account people who are HIV-positive?
- What was the nationwide funding amount for 2007 and estimates for 2008?

- What was the percentage increase in Ryan White Funding nationwide from 2006 to 2007 and estimated annual increases for 2007 through 2009? Do these numbers include U.S. Territories?
- How much funding did Long Island receive for 2007 and what was the percentage decrease in funding on Long Island in 2007 as compared to 2006?
- CDC has tables that state when they believe a person was diagnosed HIV positive. Do any of these tables influence Ryan White Funding?
- If a person tests positive for HIV infection and their T-cell counts are well below 200, the number that determines the onset of AIDS, is it possible to determine how long the person has had AIDS? Am I correct in stating that below 200 is the threshold which determines if a person has AIDS or when an opportunistic infection is occurring in HIV-positive patients? Would the person then be classified as having AIDS? Can this affect the criteria for receiving funding?
- Please clarify if New York State has confidential AIDS testing in which the person taking the test is not obligated to report any information regarding their diagnosis.
- I have heard about home based test kits that people can take to determine their HIV-status. Do these tests prevent the state from getting accurate counts on HIV-positive people? How is this factor taken into account in determining Ryan White funding eligibility?

I would like to thank you for taking the time to look into my questions. On behalf of the Richard M. Brodsky foundation, we praise your continued efforts in fighting this global epidemic at home and abroad. This information is not only important to our organization, but to the many HIV/AIDS patients who are unaware of the legislation that affects their standard of living. Please feel free to visit our foundation website at <http://www.richardmbrodsky.org> as well as our 5k / AIDS / Cancer / Survive / Run / Walk at <http://www.5kAidsCancerRunWalk.com>. The site may or may not be operational by the time you receive this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact us at RichardM.Brodsky@gmail.com or at the contact information on this letterhead. If you would be so kind as to send your letter to the following address, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Richard Brodsky, President
 Richard M. Brodsky Foundation
 1247 Mara Court
 Atlantic Beach, NY 11509

Sincerely,



Eduardo Segovia, Jr. Research Scientist
 on behalf of the
 Richard M. Brodsky Foundation