



Fully Fund the Virginia State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP)

Issue

In the FY 2010 Budget, \$85,000 of the **Virginia HIV/AIDS State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program's (SPAP)** was cut from the \$285,000 appropriated by the legislature. This cut will:

1. **Remove 63 patients** from the SPAP program and create a **waiting list** forcing patients to access treatments through the VA AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which will result in a cost over **\$1 million to Virginia**.
2. Cause a possible disruption for patients in their medication regime if the drug prescribed was covered under their Medicare Part D plan but not the VA ADAP formulary.
3. Cause ADAP to adopt a waiting list because of the influx of patients and increase costs hurting patient care.

Background

- The SPAP was created in 2006 through the budget amendment process.
- The SPAP provides AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) eligible clients with financial assistance for their Medicare D premiums and co-pay "donut-hole" expenses.
- Eligible patients must be a Virginia resident, enrolled in ADAP & a Medicare Part D plan, and have a household income must be between 135% and 300% FPL.
- All financial assistance **does count** towards a patient's Medicare Part D TrOOP expenses which means they meet their catastrophic coverage quicker and rely less on ADAP and other public funding.
- Financial assistance and/or compassionate product from ADAP **does not count** towards a patient's TrOOP Expenses.
- **The average monthly ADAP cost for a patient is \$1,300. The average monthly SPAP co-pay is \$383.95 producing a cost savings of \$916.05/client/month and \$879,408 annually for VA ADAP*. This program has received national recognition for its ingenuity and success and serves as a model for other states to implement SPAP's.**

Solution

Patient Services, Inc. (PSI), a Richmond based non-profit organization who works with VA ADAP to administer this program, along with the **Virginia Organization Responding to AIDS (VORA)**, is asking for your support for **Item 284, #1h/s** introduced by **Delegate John O'Bannon** and **Senator Janet Howell** which will restore the \$85,000 that was cut in the Governor's FY2010 budget. Your support will ensure that no patient has to be dis-enrolled from this invaluable program. By providing these patients with financial assistance for their Medicare Part D premiums and co-pays, they receive comprehensive health care while Virginia receives a significant cost savings for several public assistance programs.

*This example utilizes 80 patients as a model.