

AIDS PROJECT GREATER DANBURY

30 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810
phone: 203.778.2437 / fax: 203.743.1439
e-mail: apgd99@aol.com
www.danbury.org/apgd

Testimony Appropriations Committee 6 March 2015

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the committee. Over the last 10 years the number of people **living with HIV/AIDS has increased by 15% to 10,637**, but funding during that same time has not. Frankly, the funding has never come close to keeping pace. The proposed \$85,000 cut to AIDS Services, and a 5% rescission to syringe exchange programs will return us to 2001 funding levels, and fall even shorter in preventing HIV infection rates, in getting people tested early on in their disease, assisting people in accessing and staying in care, and staying housed.

Specifically, I'm here to urge you to restore the 5% rescissions that the governor issued to the SEPs and AIDS Services (Prevention). We know that we continue to be in a deep fiscal crisis, but we've been bled dry. In fact, the last round of rescissions forced DPH to go back in time from funding 5 SEPs, leaving us with just 3 funded programs. These programs are the foundational frontline of HIV prevention and losing any more ground is a poor decision and simply bad public health policy.

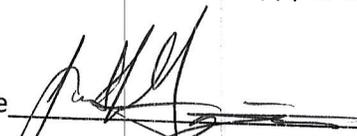
We know that this is an incredibly cost effective, evidenced based HIV intervention. The data tells us that, over the past decade, newly reported cases of HIV in injecting drug users has dropped by 30%. We simply cannot afford to return to the past when 50% of HIV cases were in injecting drug users. Connecticut saw a 30% reduction in our CDC HIV prevention funds as they are redirecting funding to areas of the country that have the highest incidence of HIV, or the top tier areas. Philosophically, we agree with the direction that the CDC is going in, but it's killing us in a practical sense.

Connecticut is a second tier area, and over the next few years, will experience a 50% reduction in our federal HIV prevention funds. If the rescissions are not restored, we will find ourselves on the precipice of a new wave of the disaster we experienced in the 80's and 90's. These programs are evidence based and scientifically proven to work and be cost effective.

I call on all of you once again, to restore these cuts to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS, families, poor people, the elderly and those with disabilities-aren't the ones on whose backs the budget is balanced.

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name 

Affiliation APCO Staff

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name James G

Affiliation Client NEP

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

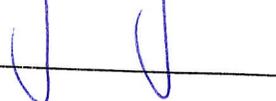
Your Name Santa Matison

Affiliation Client NCP

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes- when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Jameli Farmer 

Affiliation APGD 

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Lise Probst

Affiliation APGD Staff

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Rodney Moulton MEd/LAPC

Affiliation APGD - Staff

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Karen Failla - office manager

Affiliation APGD STAFF

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Josefina Ossers

Affiliation ARGO- STAFF

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Evelyn Saiter

Affiliation APGD Staff

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Melanie Johnson

Affiliation Housing Coordinator@
AIDS Project Greater Danbury

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Jason V. E

Affiliation APGD Client

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Johnny Jayner

Affiliation Liberation programs

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Jesse B

Affiliation R N P

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name CALVIN MOORER

Affiliation LIBERATION PROGRAMS

Vito Russo once said, "Someday, the AIDS crisis will be over. Remember that, and when that day comes—when that day has come and gone, there will be people alive on this earth—gay people and straight people, men and women, black and white, who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease in this country and all over the world, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and, in some cases, gave their lives so other people might live and be free".

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Your Name Teyonte Best

Affiliation AIDS Project Greater Danbury