

Health

AIDS Emergency Legislation Introduced

Senators Alan Cranston (D-CA), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) have introduced the Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990. The legislation consists of a two-pronged approach: immediate financial assistance to communities hardest hit by the epidemic and assistance to all states and communities to develop comprehensive care programs in order to avert disaster down the road.

Under Title I, \$300 million would be authorized to assist metropolitan areas that have reported more than 200 cases of AIDS. Under Title II, \$300 million would be authorized to assist states and localities in establishing and operating consortia or networks of services to care for people with AIDS that focus on community-based care.

In this outline of the legislation, Senator Cranston stated that "As the number of AIDS cases continues to grow...more and more communities across the country will have difficulties responding to the crisis. San Francisco has been a pioneer in developing a new model of providing services in the community to people with life-threatening disease...all at a lower cost per patient than other cities. The increasing caseload is making it difficult to continue providing that level of service. We must begin now to develop a system of care that is compassionate and cost-effective."

Both San Francisco and Los Angeles have each seen more than 7500 cases of AIDS. "We haven't encountered an epidemic of this magnitude in decades," stated Cranston. "(It) requires an investment in activities to prevent the further spread of the disease and to keep people infected with the HIV productive and healthy."

HRCF Backs Health Bill for Women

HRCF will give women's cancer legislation a high priority on its advocacy agenda. Executive Director Tim McFeeley announced that Kathleen Stoll, Lesbian Issues and Outreach Director for HRCF, will spearhead the effort to increase government funding for preventative health services and education about breast, uterine, and ovarian cancer.

Stoll explained why cancer is on the lesbian issues agenda: "Women who have never had children are at greater risk for these forms of cancer. The tragedy of these often preventable deaths in the lesbian community is another example of the failure of our country's health care system."

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act of 1990 would establish a new Public Health Service grants program to provide preventative health screening and referral services for low-income women. The grants to provide these services would be awarded directly to the states.

For confidential AIDS Information

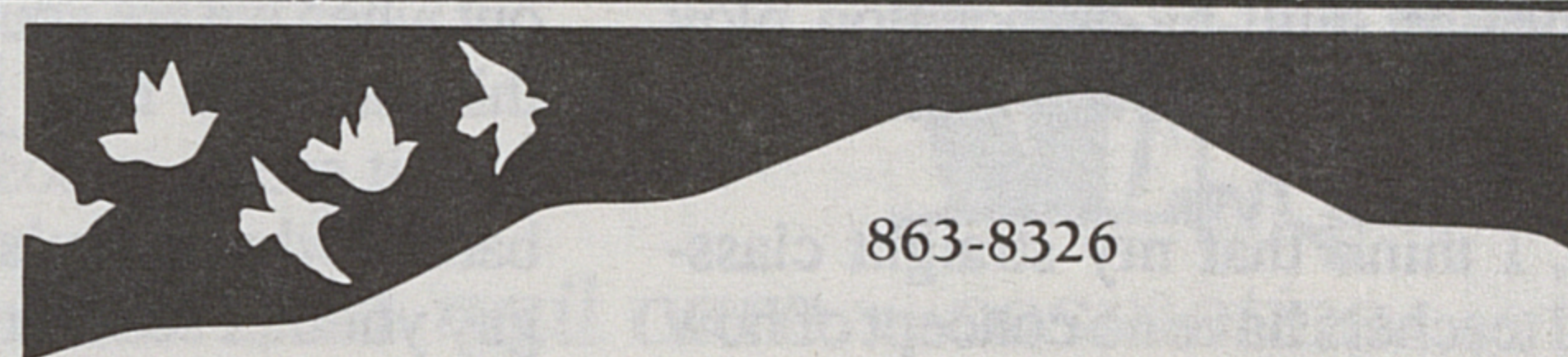


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