

Congressional Letter of Request

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
 SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- 2416 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6118
 Phone 202 226-4832

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Dr. Roger Herdman
 Director
 Office of Technology Assessment
 Congress of the United States
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Roger:

As you know, the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment has maintained a strong interest in the AIDS epidemic since its first identification in 1981. Since that time the OTA has provided much of the background and information for Subcommittee activity, and we are most grateful for your ongoing assistance.

I am writing now to request your help in continuing Congressional oversight on the reduction and prevention of HIV and AIDS. In particular, I would request that the OTA update its 1988 background paper "How Effective is AIDS Education?" Within that update, I would ask particularly if the OTA would review what can reasonably be expected from information, education, reduction, and prevention **efforts; what is known** of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the available interventions used to reach persons at highest risk of infection, traditionally disadvantaged populations, and adolescents and young adults, and the effectiveness of mass media activities. If, as part of this update, the OTA could also provide a background and general review of the broader issues, both substantive and methodological, in nonclinical prevention and education, that, too, **would** be appropriate.

As an interim measure, I would also ask if the OTA could provide a summary and overview of the recent Centers for Disease Control External Review of its prevention programs and of other relevant extant reviews. This interim report would be most useful at some time toward the end of September.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you or your staff have questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Tim Westmoreland of the Subcommittee staff.

Sincerely,

Henry A. WAXMAN
 Chairman, Subcommittee on
 Health and the Environment

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