

# AIDS VACCINE ADVOCACY COALITION

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March 1, 2000

## **Vaccines for a New Millennium Act: Important New Steps to Develop HIV/AIDS and other Vaccines**

The AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) applauds the leadership of Senator John Kerry and Representative Nancy Pelosi in developing and introducing the Vaccines for a New Millennium Act. "Ultimately, the only way to stop this still expanding epidemic is with a preventive vaccine. Scientists believe that a vaccine is possible. And not nearly enough is being done to develop a vaccine." said Rose McCullough, AVAC Executive Director.

"Both direct funding of research by government and industry and mechanisms that leverage private investment are needed to develop vaccines for HIV/AIDS and other deadly infectious diseases." said McCullough. The Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress states that tax credits for research and development can be expected to spur investment by the private sector and are justified to correct failures in the market for these vaccines. She added, "Using the taxing power of government to leverage private investment, sends a clear message to industry from the people and it holds the pharmaceutical companies to their oft-stated humanitarian goals while supporting their proven business methods for getting things done efficiently."

The Vaccines for a New Millennium Act would take important steps to distribute existing vaccines; provide a research tax credit to industry to encourage them to develop a vaccine; create both a purchase fund and tax credit to help distribute a vaccine, when developed, worldwide; and create mechanisms for better coordination in the United States and the world.

AVAC's groundbreaking work to develop the research and development tax credit concept led to introduction in of the Lifesaving Vaccine Technology Act of 1999 by Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Senator John Kerry (H.R. 1278 and S.1718). Beginning with innovative work by AVAC, IAVI and the World Bank, intense interest has been kindled in the desirability of creating a market for AIDS vaccines in advance.

Founded in 1995, AVAC is a coalition of volunteer advocates located throughout the country. In all of the work that we do, AVAC seeks to provide a well-informed, independent, and honest critique of current efforts by the U.S. government, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, and other sectors toward developing an HIV vaccine. Our goal is to speed development of HIV vaccines without taking resources away from basic HIV research, drug development, or other prevention research. AVAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations to AVAC are tax deductible.

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