

01-13

STATEMENT OF POLICY DISCRIMINATION OF HIV INFECTED PERSONS

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) calls for the political will and leadership at the local, state, and national levels to oppose stigmatizing and punitive measures against HIV infected persons. These include discriminatory practices--such as denial of employment, housing or public accommodations, isolation of inmates from the general population--social prejudice, moral judgments about sexuality and sexual orientation, and violence.

Justification

HIV/AIDS-related discrimination has been widely documented and is a continuing problem.¹

Ending the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV is an important step in curbing the epidemic.² Such discrimination can lead to loss of employment and housing, estrangement from family and society, increased risk of violence, and a strong disincentive for HIV testing, acknowledgment of HIV infection, and/or discussion of HIV serostatus with partners.^{3, 4}

Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors

November 21, 2001

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¹ Kaiser Family Foundation. *Attitudes About Stigma and Discrimination Related to HIV/AIDS: Kaiser Public Opinion Spotlights*. Updated August 2006. Available at http://www.kff.org/spotlight/hivstigma/upload/Spotlight_Aug06_Stigma-pdf.pdf.

² The White House Office of National AIDS Policy. *National HIV/AIDS Strategy For The United States*, July 2010. Available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf>

³ Ibid.

⁴ UNAIDS. *Reducing HIV Stigma and Discrimination: A Critical Part of National AIDS Programmes*, Dec 2007. Available at http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/JC1521_stigmatisation_en.pdf.

