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Folder Title:

Focus on the Family

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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Focus on the Family

**OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502  
PHONE NUMBER: (202) 456-6708  
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NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 4

DATE: 07/22/04

TO: Mike Magan

FAX NUMBER: 202-216-3351

FROM: Kathy Wills

COMMENTS:

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Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet  
Fax Number (719) 548-5735

Sent To Kathy Wills  
 Senior Advisor to the Secretary

Company Name: White House Faith Based & Comm. Initiatives

Fax Phone #: 202/456-7019

Sent By: Debbie Nelson

Date: 7/20/2004

Subject: bc of correspondence to Ambassador Randall Tobias from Dr. James C. Dobson

Comments:

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Number of pages (including cover page): 3

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July 16, 2004

Ambassador Randall Tobias  
Global AIDS Coordinator  
U.S. Department of State  
SA-29, 2nd Floor  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20522-0099

Dear Ambassador Tobias:

I'm writing to address a matter of growing concern to me and to other members of the pro-family movement. Specifically, I'm referring once again to the alarmingly small amount of funding that has been designated toward true abstinence and fidelity education through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. It is clear that, at this point, the lion's share of federal prevention funding has been awarded to organizations that counterproductively promote "safe sex" as the most effective means of combating the AIDS pandemic in Africa. Furthermore, the process is clearly biased against organizations with an Evangelical mindset.

According to the terms of the law, out of the \$15 billion allocated to the AIDS initiative, a total of \$1 billion should be applied directly toward abstinence and fidelity education programs. However, even when taking into account abstinence funding that has been wrongly awarded to groups providing counterfeit abstinence programs, federal support for abstinence falls far, far short of the \$1 billion mark. I am aware that an abstinence grant has been awarded to World Relief, and for that I am thankful. However, other Evangelical organizations have been overlooked because, according to your office, they failed to follow the proper channels for application. If the problem is that Christian providers are unfamiliar with the federal grants process, then immediate steps must be taken to help them comply. Frankly, the explanation rings hollow to us.

It has become clear that, by and large, USAID and the Global Fund have no intention of funding the work of the many capable Evangelical organizations that stand ready, willing and eager to combat the AIDS problem through abstinence and fidelity education. I am very disappointed by this apparent bias towards those that were turned down. At this point, Focus on the Family and other religious organizations have no choice but to begin publicizing this enormous gap between the policies espoused by President Bush and the implementation (or lack thereof) of those policies in this initiative. I am reluctant to go public with our criticism, but that is the next step if necessary.

As I did in my letter of March 30, I urge you again to ensure that the full \$1 billion earmarked for abstinence efforts is put to good use and, even more importantly, that those funds are awarded to organizations with a proven track record for promoting abstinence, rather than to pro-condom groups that don't even believe that abstinence and fidelity are possible. When I made this point earlier, you responded by saying in your letter of April 8:

Ambassador Tobias

July 16, 2004

Page 2

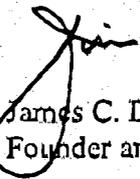
"Our intent in the first round of funding has been to move as quickly as possible to bring immediate relief to those who are suffering the devastation of HIV/AIDS. The programs that were chosen for funding in the first round were chosen because their recipients have existing operations among the focus countries of the Emergency Plan, have a proven track record, and have the capacity to rapidly scale up their operations and begin having an immediate impact... **With our next round of funding, I expect to see many new partners, including more faith-based and community-based organizations that can bring expanded capacity and innovative new thinking to our efforts. I am committed to encouraging and strengthening such partners that were among the first responders to HIV/AIDS...**"

To fulfill your intention, a good starting point might be re-evaluating the role of key decision makers at USAID who have displayed hostility toward abstinence programs. A few of our close friends, such as Ray Ruddy from Gerard Health, have been vocal about the extreme ideological bias of USAID and its staff. Their views are in contradiction to the views and stated goals of the enabling legislation, and we look to you to assure that funding is distributed accordingly.

Nowhere is hostility to the President's policy more evident than in the evaluation of the success of Uganda in combating AIDS. The pioneering research of Dr. Ted Green has been put on the shelf and Dr. Green has been removed from his key position in reporting the success of abstinence and fidelity in Uganda. Indeed, he has been replaced by a pro-condom researcher. It is clear to us that USAID is pulling out all stops to sabotage the success of Uganda in its biased research and pro-condom activity.

Thanks in advance for your prompt attention to this matter, Ambassador Tobias. I'm sure I don't need to tell you that, in addition to being morally preferable to the unrestrained distribution of condoms, studies show that abstinence and fidelity are also far more effective in preventing the further spread of AIDS. My hope is that the State Department's approach will soon be amended to reflect this reality. Best wishes to you and your colleagues in the days ahead.

Sincerely,



James C. Dobson, Ph.D.  
Founder and Chairman

JCD/dmm

cc: Karl Rove  
Tim Goeglein  
Franklin Graham  
Steve Douglas

P.S. If you feel it would be constructive, I would be happy to make members of my staff available to discuss this matter personally with you at your offices.

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