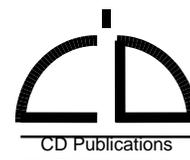


# Substance Abuse Funding News



Semimonthly Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco, Prevention, Treatment and Grants

Since 1961

WASHINGTON: OCTOBER 11, 2000

00-19

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## CAMPAIGN 2000

### Bush Proposes Anti-Drug Funding Hike; Gore Follows, Advocates Cautious

Anti-drug leaders in Washington are delighted with Gov. George W. Bush's detailed anti-drug policy statement and hopeful Vice President Al Gore will follow with his own proposal. The anti-drug advocates, however, fear part of Bush's plan could lead to large numbers of medically unqualified groups receiving money to offer drug treatment.

With less than 30 days left in the presidential campaign, the nation's drug crisis finally enters the debate. Bush proposes major additional funding of \$2.767 billion for prevention, treatment and interdiction. The money would be new spending financed by the anticipated federal surplus, a Bush campaign spokesman tells *SAFN*.

Vice President Al Gore quickly countered his budget plan would spend nearly twice as much as Bush's on anti-drug efforts—\$5.3 billion.

#### Some specifics from Bush

Bush's plan contains more than 20 bulleted items—many long sought after by anti-drug professionals—approaching the illegal drug crisis from a public health and interdiction perspective. As an example, he wishes to double the number of community anti-drug coalitions by pumping an additional \$350 million into the Drug-Free

Communities Act during the next five years.

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America notes the Clinton Administration already strongly supports that program. Even so and perhaps not surprisingly, CADCA chief Arthur Dean says he's thrilled with Bush's proposal.

"We hope it will initiate in the presidential campaign the kind of thoughtful debate and consideration America's number one social problem clearly deserves," Dean says.

"We don't take a position on the politics off all this," says lobbyist Thomas McDaniels of the Legal Action Center, which represents a number of national anti-drug groups. "But it's a great step in the right direction. The topic has matured to where it's finally getting the type of national attention it deserves."

#### Narrowing the treatment gap

Bush also seeks to nearly double the budget of the National Institute of Drug Abuse and spend about \$1 billion to narrow the treatment gap. Of that \$1 billion, about \$250 million would be for teen drug treatment.

But several leaders of anti-drug groups note Bush has been supportive of faith-based groups providing drug treatment. In some of those instances, those groups don't use

professionally trained or licensed drug treatment workers. Anti-drug professionals say they don't oppose faith-based groups becoming involved in anti-drug efforts. But as anti-drug groups told Congress in lobbying this year, large amounts of federal dollars shouldn't be spent to provide treatment for the disease of addiction by groups that haven't been medically trained to do so.

The Bush spokesman tells *SAFN* what concerns the GOP nominee is results. Groups such as Teen Challenge, which aren't licensed to provide drug treatment, have been successful, he says.

"The Governor wants those groups to be able to compete for those funds like any other group," the spokesman says. "He not as concerned as others with the details of licenses. He wants to see whatever works gets funded."

The spokesman, however, says Bush believes that when participants in drug treatment disagree with the faith of a treatment provider, those clients should have the option of leaving the program for another.

### *Here is what Bush would do*

Bush's drug-policy statement proposes to:

- Create a Parent Drug Corps by providing \$25 million over five years in matching grants to non-profit organizations working to educate and train parents in effective drug prevention.
- Increase funding for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program by \$100 million over five years, but require that states and districts measure and report drug use and demonstrate effective use of federal funds.
- Double the number, and enhance the effectiveness of, community anti-drug coalitions by providing \$350 million over five years to the Drug-Free Communities program.
- Provide \$25 million over five years to expand the Boston Gun Project from 27 to 100 cities to effectively combat youth and gang violence.
- Support innovative Drug-Free Workplace programs by providing \$25 million over five years to non-profit organizations working with small businesses.
- Double the National Institute of Drug Abuse fiscal 1998 budget to \$1.07 billion in fiscal 2003.
- Work to close the treatment gap by conducting a state-by-state inventory of treatment needs and capacity and providing an additional \$1 billion over five years for treatment. Promote teen treatment programs through using \$250 million of those funds for competitive grants to treatment providers administering residential substance abuse programs for teenagers.
- Promote drug-free federal prisons through regular testing and monitoring of prisoners.
- Require probationers and parolees to pass regular drug tests, and be in treatment as appropriate, as a condition of parole.
- Increase funding for drug courts by \$50 million over five years.
- Increase funding for the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act by \$1 billion over five years.
- Fully support the \$1.3 billion Colombian aid package recently passed by Congress and signed into law.

- Reduce cultivation of coca in Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador and opium in Southwest Asia by offering \$165 million of aid over five years for alternative crop development
- Guarantee \$100 million over 5 years in DEA funding for cleaning up methamphetamine labs.
- Increase counterdrug intelligence funding by \$50 million over 5 years, and double the Clinton Administration's counter-drug research and technology request to \$200 million over 5 years.
- Provide \$250 million over 5 years to reimburse border countries for prosecuting federal drug referrals, direct U.S. Attorneys on the Southwest border to prosecute large drug cases in federal court and appoint a Southwest Border Coordinator.
- Strengthen federal/state partnerships by increasing coordination among the Office of National Drug Control Policy, state drug control agencies and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.

### *Gore gives a sketchy response*

Gore's campaign spokesman couldn't be reached for comment. His campaign, however, released a brief statement summarized below. He would:

- Support a matching-grant program for testing and treating prisoners (announced earlier this year).
- Expand the national youth anti-drug media campaign.
- Double funding for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program.
- Expand drug courts.
- Double the number of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas funding in the Drug-Free Communities Program.

## **The Spin Turns As Two Sides Paint Different Pictures Of The Drug Crisis**

The art of the presidential campaign spin is now being applied to the debate on illegal drugs.

In his drug policy statement, Gov. George W. Bush charges the Clinton-Gore administration started out sending the wrong message on illegal drugs by cutting the Drug Czar's office staff by over 80% and appointing a surgeon general who spoke openly about drug legalization.

From 1979-1992, teen drug abuse consistently declined, Bush says. He maintains a tragic lack of presidential leadership led to drug-use by teens more than doubling from 1992-1997. He concedes new data suggest teen drug use may have leveled off, but is still at near record levels for the decade.

The recently released 1999 National Household Survey on drug abuse, the largest ever conducted, is more than a suggestion that teen drug use is declining, counters Bob Weiner, communications director for Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey.

The survey shows teen drug use is generally down in the last two years. To Weiner, that's clear evidence the national anti-drug media campaign and large increases in pre-

vention/treatment funding by the Clinton administration during the late 1990s was an investment that has paid off.

Weiner notes when Bush says the Drug Czar's office staff was cut by 80%, from 146 to 25, the Texas governor doesn't mention the staff is now 154.

Weiner points to Pride Surveys, an independent gauge of substance abuse and gun use by America's youth, as testimony to the administration's strong anti-drug record. In September, Pride Surveys reported that schools in 1999-2000 were 43 percent more drug free than in previous years. Pride also reports drops in teen drinking and gun-toting in schools.

Thomas J. Gleaton of Pride Surveys says Weiner's mentioning his survey is a fair response to Bush's charges. Gleaton tells *SAFN* the administration's targeting of drug abuse through national health and advertising is correlated with the drop in use shown by survey's results.

#### SUBSTANCE ABUSE FUNDING NEWS

**Copyright 2000** by CD Publications, est. 1961. *Substance Abuse Funding News* (ISSN 1067-0165) is an independent news service published twice monthly, 8204 Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD 20910. E-mail: [saf@cdpublications.com](mailto:saf@cdpublications.com); Web: <http://www.cdpublications.com>. Editorial questions: 301/588-6380; Subscription questions: 800/666-6380 (8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eastern Time); Fax: 301/588-6385. \$319/yr., \$606/two yr. in U.S.; Canada, plus \$10; Int'l, plus \$40 (U.S. funds). Single issue: \$18 prepaid; \$13 each for two or more.

**Editor:** Michael Blankenheim; **Publisher:** Mike Gerecht;

**Managing Editor:** Steve Kidney.

**\*CDS-Community Document Service:** CDS will supply any document we reference with a CDS number (for subscribers only). \$7 per item, plus 25 cents per page, prepaid only (check, MC/Visa/AmEx). For one-day service, double fees, plus \$15 express charges; one-day fax service, triple fees. No billing. Mailed to subscriber addresses only.

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