

# The Post-Standard

Our opinion

## Post-Standard Editorial

### AIDS Caravan Coming

A reminder to summon willpower, funds to fight disease

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A national caravan may roll through Syracuse in October headed for Washington, D.C., and a five-day national demonstration designed to change public policy to help stop AIDS. Why not join in?

The New York AIDS Coalition is organizing across the state to include local organizations such as the Central New York Health Systems Agency, ARISE and the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS in the caravan and demonstration scheduled for Oct. 8-12. Eradicating this still-spreading disease depends on such efforts to educate the public and press officials to make the policy changes that can make the difference.

For example, the Ryan White CARE Act has provided life-saving care to hundreds of thousands of Americans with HIV/AIDS; yet it is severely underfunded, according to the Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA). Medicaid is about the only hope for low-income Americans living with AIDS/HIV; yet it's threatened by budget cuts. The world's wealthiest nations continue to resist canceling debt owed by developing nations. The G-8 Summit yielded some results, but not enough.

With the success of these efforts, maybe HIV prevention will focus on the best science, not ideology that ignores scientifically proven methods such as condom use.

The caravans will be bolstered by events in the host cities. Here's hoping the Syracuse area can play a big part in the effort. Onondaga County alone has 254 people living with HIV and 455 living with AIDS.

For more information on the caravans and the demonstration in D.C., contact the Campaign To End AIDS at 877-END-AIDS (877-363-2437), or visit the Web site at [www.C2EA.org](http://www.C2EA.org).