I am appealing to you for comprehension -- and action. In this potential crisis of misinformation and misunderstanding, it is imperative that AIDS Action have your support to continue its work.

We have already projected that AIDS Action will take in 50 new, additional clients each month in the next year. While AZT does nothing to stop the spread of infection (and misconceptions about the drug may actually worsen the problem), it may help people with AIDS live longer.

Our previous expectation that AIDS Action will need to serve 60% more clients by the end of the year -- with a budget increase of just 9% -- may skyrocket dangerously.

But that's not all. In light of talk about AZT, there are several critical reactions that AIDS Action must deal with:

With AZT now available to HIV+ people at early stages of infection, AIDS Action must be able to respond effectively. To offer information on where to get tested, now that it may be more advantageous to do so. To help protect confidentiality rights. To get people in need the support and counseling services that help them deal with test results. And more.

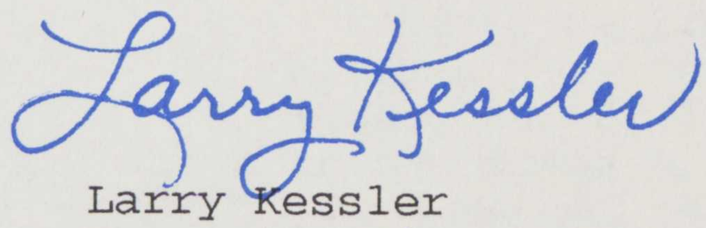
And who will pay for this radically increased use of AZT? According to *The New York Times,* there are now likely to be "major consequences for the health care system, possibly adding hundreds of thousands of new patients and billions of dollars in new costs at one stroke." In Massachusetts alone, of 35,000 people believed to be infected with HIV, at least 17,000 could qualify to begin taking AZT right away.

You can see how urgently we need your help. To keep our Hotline operating and serving an expanding need, over and above the 60,000 calls we already handle. To continue our ever more needed education and prevention programs throughout local communities and in work-places, too.

And, in this time of crisis, to continue providing the lifeline services that people with HIV diseases need so desperately -- food and housekeeping, transportation to medical appointments, emotional and social support, legal help on so many fronts, and more.

Please help us keep up the fight, while researchers continue to seek a real cure for AIDS. I urge you to give as generously as you possibly can, today.

Sincerely,



Larry Kessler
Executive Director

P.S. Our efforts to inform people that AZT is a start -- but not a cure -- depend on you. Please give promptly and generously.