



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 15 2006

Dear Commissioner D'Amato:

During the February 2 USCC hearing on "Major Internal Challenges Facing the Chinese Leadership," you asked about the status of HIV/AIDS in China. As a follow up to the response we provided you earlier, I would like to inform you of a recent development about the HIV/AIDS situation in China. We recently learned that the Chinese government established a new law that will potentially improve its response on this serious health issue. Under the law, regional governments will be responsible for providing free testing and treatment, including antiretroviral medications, to impoverished HIV/AIDS patients. The law, effective March 1, also prohibits discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, and protects their privacy.

We are encouraged that China continues to address the HIV/AIDS in ways that allow those living with HIV/AIDS to lead lives of dignity and respect. I can assure you that we will continue to work with China as it deals with this epidemic.

Please feel free to contact me if you want additional information on this issue.

*Thanks again
for the Commission's
hard work.*

Sincerely,

James R. Keith
Senior Advisor
East Asian and Pacific Affairs

The Honorable

C. Richard D'Amato,

U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.