



'Shoulder to Shoulder'

Headquarters
Belize Defence Force
 Price Barracks
 Ladyville
 Tel: 501-225-2174
 Fax: 501-225-2175
 E-mail: fhq@bdf.bz

FHQ/1210

Ms Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
 Governor of Louisiana
 Office of the Governor
 Attention: Constituent Services
 PO Box 94004
 Baton Rouge
 Louisiana 70804
 United States of America

September 20, 2006

Dear Governor Blanco

ASSISTANCE – ABSTINENCE PROGRAM - BELIZE

I write to seek your assistance in a matter that is of great importance to the country of Belize. Since 1999 Belize has had the highest HIV prevalence rate in Central America. The most affected section of the population is the most productive: ages 15-40. Recently, HIV/AIDS was identified as a Tier Two threat to the Security of Belize. As the Institution responsible for Defence we want to make a contribution to the national response to AIDS.

I was recently in Trinidad and Tobago and became aware that Louisiana had the most successful abstinence program in the United States of America. I was also made aware that the State of Louisiana has provided support for the development of a Trinidad and Tobago national abstinence policy. I would be grateful if similar support: workshops, textbooks and other relevant publications to develop a Curriculum, Clearinghouse Center/Website and Abstinence Clubs could be provided to Belize. Belize intends to form a National Abstinence Committee that would steer the program.

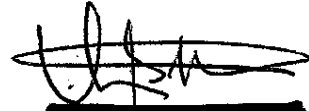
You must be aware that for many years now the Belize Defence Force and the Louisiana National Guard has maintained one of the most robust State Partnership Program. We would be willing to coordinate this effort through the Governor's Program on Abstinence (GPA) State Coordinator/Director.

The successful implementation of a national abstinence program will go a long way in providing choices to many young Belizeans and contribute directly to our national

development. Over fifty one percent of our population is less than nineteen years old; our need is urgent if we are to win the battle against HIV/AIDS.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter and offer our thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H. Smith', written over a solid black rectangular redaction box.

Brigadier General
Commander