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September 5, 1986

C. Everett Koop, M.D.  
Surgeon General  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Koop:

We were pleased to have the opportunity for a joint consultation on the Report on AIDS which you are proposing. The information and observations you shared with us will be extremely helpful to the Synagogue Council as we consider the role which the Jewish religious community must fulfill in this critical area. In turn, we hope that you found our responses meaningful to your thinking.

We were very moved with your frankness in discussing the options and initiatives of your office. You may be sure that the synagogal and rabbinic community of America wishes to cooperate with you in every way possible.

I enclose two SCA documents which will be of interest to you: (a) The Synagogue Council, U.S. Catholic Conference and National Council of Churches statement on sex education; (b) the announcement and brief description of the SCA's recently launched National Jewish Hospice Task Force. We intend to make AIDS patients a significant focus of the work of our Task Force and our Second National Conference on Hospice for the Jewish Community. We would appreciate any guidance you could give us this area. Of course, we will look forward to studying your Report as soon as it is available to us. We would like to see your recommendations implemented in the context of Judaism.

As the national representative body of the three major branches of American Judaism, we work with many of the religious and social service agencies with which you consulted. I am confident that our collective efforts will be helpful in addressing this awesome challenge before us.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Henry D. Michelman  
Executive Vice President

HDM:m  
enc.  
cc: Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman  
Rabbi Irwin Blank

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