

Mo'Nique, Let's Talk, Let's Test Foundation to Host Town Hall Meeting...



CHICAGO (Sept. 11, 2007) â€“ Demonstrating her passion to help end the HIV/AIDS crisis in the Black community, television and film star Moâ€™Nique will host â€œFight 4 Life,â€ a town hall meeting Sunday, September 16 at 3 p.m. at Chicago State University.

Lloyd Kelly, executive director of the Letâ€™s Talk, Letâ€™s Test Foundation and Dr. William Johnson, executive director of the Luck Care Center, will join Moâ€™Nique at CSU's Douglas Library Auditorium for this open and honest discussion on HIV/AIDS.

Mo'Nique is the host of "Showtime at the Apollo," the "BET Awards" and "Moâ€™Niqueâ€™s Fat Chance."

â€œMoâ€™nique is well known and well respected in the Black community and she should be commended for her commitment to ending HIV/AIDS in our community,â€ said Kelly. â€œShe keeps it real. Our hope is that this discussion will get people to understand that this disease is killing our community.â€

The Letâ€™s Talk, Letâ€™s Test Foundation and the Chicago Department of Public Health are sponsoring the free event, which is open to the public.

The Letâ€™s Talk, Letâ€™s Test Foundation is dedicated to increasing awareness about the HIV/AIDS crisis in the Black community and has signed on to the National Call and Commitment to end the disease by 2012.

The call charges Black America:

• To develop a national commitment to reduce HIV rates by 50 percent during the next five years.

• To double the number of people who know their HIV status.

• To ensure that HIV-positive people are in appropriate treatment.

"This is a disease, not a disgrace. The stigma of HIV/AIDS is holding the African-American community back. We have turned this into a disease of sexuality instead of a sexually transmitted disease."