
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 472 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, GREENLEAF, FARNESE, SABATINA,
DINNIMAN, FONTANA, BROWNE, RAFFERTY AND COSTA,
OCTOBER 24, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 24, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 1, 2016, as "World AIDS Day," fostering
2 public awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and remembering the
3 millions of individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and the
4 global challenges associated with eradicating this deadly
5 disease.

6 WHEREAS, "World AIDS Day" has been commemorated annually
7 since 1988, and June 5 of this year marks the 35th anniversary
8 of the first reported AIDS case; and

9 WHEREAS, The World AIDS Campaign was launched in 1997 by
10 UNAIDS, the joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS, and the
11 mission of UNAIDS is to raise public awareness of HIV/AIDS and
12 to promote nonjudgmental and nondiscriminatory access to HIV
13 prevention, treatment and care for all human beings; and

14 WHEREAS, UNAIDS reports that there were 36.9 million people
15 worldwide living with HIV at the end of 2014; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2014, UNAIDS reported 1.2 million AIDS-related
17 deaths, a decrease compared to the 1.8 million AIDS-related
18 deaths reported in 2009; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2016 "World AIDS Day" theme is "Access Equity

1 Rights Now," which is a call to action to work together and
2 reach people who still lack access to comprehensive treatment,
3 prevention, care and support services; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
5 Prevention (CDC), nearly 1.2 million people in the United States
6 are living with HIV and 12.8% of those people are unaware of
7 their infection; and

8 WHEREAS, Although African Americans represent approximately
9 12% of the United States population, they represented nearly 44%
10 of new HIV infections in 2014, while Latinos make up only 17% of
11 the United States population but represented 23% of new HIV
12 infections in 2014, and men who have sex with men accounted for
13 67% of all new HIV infections in 2014; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is ranked 10th highest in the United
15 States in cumulative reported AIDS cases, with the percentage of
16 new HIV cases being highest among those 20 to 29 years of age;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health estimated that
19 there were a total of 35,033 HIV/AIDS patients in this
20 Commonwealth; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize December 1, 2016, as
22 "World AIDS Day" to foster public awareness of the HIV/AIDS
23 pandemic and to remember the millions of individuals diagnosed
24 with HIV/AIDS and the global challenges associated with
25 eradicating this deadly disease.