

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 78

Supporting the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2019

Ms. LEE of California submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day.

Whereas, since the identification of AIDS in 1981, an estimated 74,900,000 people have been infected with HIV, and more than 32,000,000 people have died of AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses worldwide;

Whereas, in 2018, an estimated 1,700,000 people were newly infected with HIV, 23,300,000, people living with HIV (61 percent of the total) had access to antiretroviral (ART) therapy, and 1,000,000 people died of the disease;

Whereas worldwide, 37,900,000 people are living with HIV, only 79 percent of whom know their status;

Whereas, since 2010, new HIV infections have declined by an estimated 16 percent, from 2.1 million to 1.7 million in 2018;

Whereas progress has been made globally in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, with new transmissions among children declining 41 percent since 2010;

Whereas girls and women make up more than half of the 37.9 million people living with HIV worldwide;

Whereas young women and adolescent girls bear a disproportionate burden of HIV worldwide (18,800,000);

Whereas AIDS-related opportunistic infections are the third-leading cause of death among women aged 15 to 29 globally;

Whereas AIDS-related opportunistic infections remain the leading cause of death among women aged 15 to 49 globally;

Whereas low-income and middle-income countries continue to bear the brunt of the AIDS pandemic, with sub-Saharan Africa serving as the home of 54 percent of all adults and children living with HIV, 56 percent of whom are women and girls;

Whereas people living with HIV/AIDS are frequently susceptible to other infections, such as hepatitis C and tuberculosis (TB);

Whereas at least one-third of those living with HIV are infected with latent tuberculosis, which remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the United States, 1,100,000

people are living with HIV and 14 percent of those are not aware of their status;

Whereas in the United States, more than 700,000 people with AIDS have died since the beginning of the epidemic, including nearly 13,000 in 2014;

Whereas each year nearly 40,000 people become newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas minority communities are disproportionately affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas the CDC has found that transgender people, sex workers, people who inject drugs, and other vulnerable populations have prevention challenges that impact HIV health outcomes and barriers for seeking high-quality care;

Whereas the CDC estimates that African Americans account for almost half (43 percent) of all new infections and represent more than one-third of all people living with HIV in the United States, despite comprising about 13 percent of the population;

Whereas in the United States, African-American women are 18 times more likely to become newly infected with HIV than White women, and Hispanic women are 5 times more likely to have AIDS than non-Hispanic White women;

Whereas among all women diagnosed with HIV at the end of 2014, an estimated 59 percent were African American, 20 percent were White, and 16 percent were Hispanic or Latina;

Whereas, in 2018, youth aged 13 to 24 accounted for more than 20 percent of all new HIV diagnoses in the United

States, with nearly half of youth aged 13 to 24 unaware of their status;

Whereas men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly young MSM of color, are the population most affected by HIV;

Whereas, in 2018, MSM accounted for 66 percent of new diagnoses among men and 67 percent of all new cases;

Whereas the national opioid epidemic is a threat to a resurgence of HIV cases among people who inject drugs (PWID), with an estimated 7 percent of new cases attributable to injection drug use;

Whereas Southern States bear the greatest burden of HIV in the United States, accounting for more than half of new cases in 2017;

Whereas, in order to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, on August 18, 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act to provide primary medical care and essential support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured;

Whereas the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides services and support for over half of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States and has been reauthorized by Congress four times since it was first created (in 1996, 2000, 2006, and 2009);

Whereas to further focus attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998 the Minority AIDS Initiative was established to provide funds to State and local institutions and organizations to best serve the health care costs and support

the needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) released an update of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy targeting reducing new infections, increasing access to care, reducing disparities, and achieving a more coordinated response by 2020;

Whereas to address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2000, Congress passed the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act, providing the first contribution and the founding framework for what became the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which provides grants to developing countries to combat the 3 diseases;

Whereas, since the Global Fund was created in 2002, donors have pledged more than \$49,000,000,000 in funding (of which \$15,000,000,000 has been donated by the United States) and distributed \$42,000,000,000 to over 120 countries;

Whereas, as of 2018, the Global Fund has saved lives by providing antiretroviral (ARV) therapy for more than 18,900,000 people living with HIV, providing access to treatment for TB for 5,300,000 people, and distributing over 131,000,000 insecticide-treated nets to fight malaria;

Whereas, in order to further address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2003, Congress and the White House created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR);

Whereas, in 2013, Congress extended the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through 2018

with the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013 to continue to address HIV, TB, and malaria;

Whereas PEPFAR is currently supporting treatment for 11,500,000 men, women, and children; critical care and support for 6,200,000 orphans and vulnerable children; and in fiscal year 2016, PEPFAR supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 74,300,000 people, including 11,500,000 pregnant women;

Whereas, as a result of these efforts, more than 11,000,000 AIDS-related deaths and nearly 17,000,000 HIV transmissions have been averted worldwide since PEPFAR began;

Whereas the United States Federal Government has announced this year the “Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America” initiative to end domestic transmissions and the AIDS epidemic within the decade;

Whereas the international community has repeatedly and collectively committed to the goals of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030 and creating an AIDS-free generation;

Whereas the concept of World AIDS Day originated in 1988 and was established to focus attention on the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

Whereas December 1 is now recognized as World AIDS Day and has been recognized by governments, lawmakers, and organizations around the world; and

Whereas World AIDS Day 2019 is focused on communities making the difference through recognizing the essential role that communities play in the AIDS response at the international, national, and local levels: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of World
4 AIDS Day and recognizes the 29th anniversary of
5 observing this day;

6 (2) commends the President, State govern-
7 ments, and local governments, including State and
8 local public health agencies, for recognizing this day,
9 for publicizing its importance among their commu-
10 nities, for encouraging individuals to undergo testing
11 for HIV, and for their other ongoing efforts
12 strengthened by the Ending the HIV Epidemic ini-
13 tiative;

14 (3) commends national, State, and local media
15 organizations for carrying messages in support of
16 World AIDS Day;

17 (4) supports the goal of ending HIV/AIDS,
18 both in the United States and around the world;

19 (5) supports continued funding for prevention,
20 care, treatment services, and research programs for
21 persons living with HIV/AIDS in the United States,
22 including, through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS
23 Treatment Extension Act, the Minority HIV/AIDS
24 Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
25 vention, the National Institutes of Health, the Sub-

1 stance Abuse and Mental Health Services Adminis-
2 tration, the Office of Minority Health, and the Of-
3 fice of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

4 (6) supports the implementation of the National
5 HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States: Updated
6 to 2020 (NHAS) and achieving the goals within the
7 NHAS Federal Action Plan;

8 (7) supports continued funding for PEPFAR
9 and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis,
10 and Malaria to provide prevention, care, and treat-
11 ment to combat HIV/AIDS in low-income and mid-
12 dle-income countries;

13 (8) supports the goal of improving access to
14 comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment,
15 care, and support programs;

16 (9) supports the goal of protecting human
17 rights for all people, including vulnerable and mar-
18 ginalized populations; and

19 (10) supports efforts to address the factors that
20 make populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS by com-
21 bating poverty and hunger, expanding educational
22 opportunities for children, and empowering women
23 and girls.

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