

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 813

Supporting the goals of World AIDS Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. CHU, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BACON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. GRIJALVA) submitted the following 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

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals of World AIDS Day.

Whereas, as of the end of 2020, an estimated 37,700,000 people were living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), including 1,720,000 children;

Whereas in the United States, more than 770,000 people with AIDS have died since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, including nearly 16,000 deaths among people with diagnosed HIV in 2019, with the disease disproportionately affecting communities of color;

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

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are disproportionately affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas in order to address the HIV epidemic in the United States, on August 18, 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–381; commonly referred to as the “Ryan White 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;

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;

Whereas the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals established a global target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030;

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 the PEPFAR program remains the largest commitment in history by any country to combat a single disease;

Whereas, as of 2020, PEPFAR has supported treatment for approximately 17,200,000 people, and has enabled 2,800,000 infants of mothers living with HIV to be born HIV-free;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2020, PEPFAR directly supported HIV testing and counseling for 50,000,000 people;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, launched in 2002, has helped provide antiretroviral therapy to approximately 21,900,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and to 686,000 pregnant women to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS to their children, saving an estimated 44,000,000 lives, as of 2020;

Whereas the United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and every \$1 contributed by the United States leverages an additional \$2 from other donors, as required by law;

Whereas considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including a nearly 30-percent reduction in new HIV transmissions, over a 50-percent reduction in new HIV transmissions among children, and over a 45-percent reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths between 2010 and 2020;

Whereas approximately 27,500,000 people had access to antiretroviral therapy in 2020, compared to only 7,800,000 people who had access to such therapy in 2010;

Whereas research funded by the National Institutes of Health found that HIV treatment not only saves the lives of people living with HIV, but people living with HIV on effective antiretroviral therapy and who are durably virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit HIV, proving that HIV treatment is prevention;

Whereas the CDC states that preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduces HIV transmission through sexual contact by 99 percent when taken as prescribed, proving that PrEP is critical for HIV prevention;

Whereas nearly 1,000,000 people globally had started taking PrEP by the end of 2020;

Whereas it is estimated that, without treatment, half of all infants living with HIV will die before their second birthday;

Whereas despite the remarkable progress in combating HIV, significant challenges remain;

Whereas there were approximately 1,500,000 new HIV diagnoses in 2020 globally, structural barriers continue to make testing and treatment programs inaccessible to highly vulnerable populations, and an estimated 6,100,000 people living with HIV globally still do not know their HIV status;

Whereas the CDC reports that nearly 37,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2018 and 14 percent of the 1,200,000 people in the United States living with HIV are not aware of their HIV status;

Whereas the CDC has found that men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly young Blacks and Hispanics, are the population most affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas southern areas of the United States bear the greatest burden of HIV, accounting for 51 percent of new infections in 2018;

Whereas the CDC estimates that 44 percent of Black transgender women are living with HIV in the United States, and transgender women are 49 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV compared to the global general adult population;

Whereas one in two people living with HIV in the United States are over 50;

Whereas people living with HIV are frequently susceptible to other infections, such as hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis;

Whereas the opioid and heroin epidemics have led to increased numbers of new HIV transmissions among people who inject drugs, and the crisis has disproportionately affected nonurban areas, where HIV prevalence rates have been low historically and have limited services for HIV prevention and treatment and substance use disorder treatment;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has placed a significant burden on the public health systems across the United States and globe;

Whereas December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as “World AIDS Day”; and

Whereas, in 2021, commemorations for World AIDS Day recognize the need for “Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone’s Voice”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) encourages people around the world to work
2 to achieve the goal of zero new HIV transmissions,
3 zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths,
4 in order to end the HIV epidemic in the United
5 States and around the world by 2030;

6 (2) commends the efforts and achievements in
7 combating HIV/AIDS through the Ryan White HIV/
8 AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (Public
9 Law 111–87), the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative,
10 the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS
11 (HOPWA) Program, the Centers for Disease Con-
12 trol and Prevention, the National Institutes of
13 Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
14 Services Administration, the Office of Minority
15 Health, and the Office of the Secretary of Health
16 and Human Services;

17 (3) commends the efforts and achievements in
18 combating HIV/AIDS made by PEPFAR, the Global
19 Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and
20 the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

21 (4) supports continued funding for prevention,
22 care and treatment services, and research programs
23 for communities impacted by HIV and people living
24 with HIV in the United States and globally;

1 (5) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free
2 generation is achievable, rapid action by all countries
3 toward further expansion and scale-up of
4 antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts
5 to reduce disparities and improve access for children
6 to life-saving medications;

7 (6) encourages the scaling up of comprehensive
8 prevention services, including biomedical and struc-
9 tural interventions, to ensure inclusive access to pro-
10 grams and appropriate resources for all people at
11 risk of contracting HIV, especially in communities
12 disproportionately impacted as these groups make
13 up the majority of new HIV diagnoses in the United
14 States and prevention efforts should specifically
15 reach these groups;

16 (7) calls for greater focus on the HIV-related
17 vulnerabilities of women and girls, including women
18 and girls at risk for or who have survived violence
19 or faced discrimination as a result of the disease;

20 (8) supports continued leadership by the United
21 States in domestic, bilateral, multilateral, and pri-
22 vate sector efforts to fight HIV;

23 (9) encourages input from civil society in the
24 development and implementation of domestic and

1 global HIV policies and programs that guide the re-
2 sponse;

3 (10) encourages and supports greater degrees
4 of ownership and shared responsibility by developing
5 countries in order to ensure the sustainability of the
6 domestic responses to HIV by those countries; and

7 (11) urges other members of the international
8 community to sustain and scale up their support for
9 and financial contributions to efforts around the
10 world to combat HIV.

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