

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 262

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness
Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. LEE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV
& AIDS Awareness Day.

Whereas National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day is a
nationwide observance that calls on people to take action
to invest in the health, education, and leadership of
young people;

Whereas more than 30 years into the epidemic, the Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that
in the United States more than 1,200,000 people are liv-
ing with HIV, and every year approximately 39,000 peo-
ple acquire HIV;

Whereas in the United States, almost 40 percent of new HIV
infections are young people ages 13 to 20;

Whereas young people ages 13 to 24 account for one in five of the estimated 39,000 new HIV cases diagnosed each year in the United States;

Whereas 44 percent of HIV-positive youth do not know they carry the HIV virus;

Whereas African-American youth bear a disproportionate burden of the epidemic, representing 56 percent of new infections in young people;

Whereas young African-American men who have sex with men (MSM) ages 13 to 24 comprise 55 percent of new infections among all Black males;

Whereas the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) is the only Federal program supporting HIV prevention for adolescents in schools;

Whereas the Nation's largest Federal program dedicated to providing care and treatment for people living with HIV was named after Ryan White, a teenager from Indiana who helped educate a Nation about HIV and AIDS in the 1980s;

Whereas the Ryan White Part D Program is one of the national efforts to link HIV-positive youth to medical care and support services;

Whereas the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) provides youth, including those at risk for and living with HIV/AIDS, better access to health care coverage, more health insurance options, additional funding for sex education, a prohibition against denying people living with HIV access to health care and expanded access to Medicaid which will help more HIV-positive youth receive care; and

Whereas April 10 of each year is now recognized as National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
3 Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day;

4 (2) encourages State and local governments, in-
5 cluding their public health agencies, education agen-
6 cies, schools, and media organizations to recognize
7 and support such a day;

8 (3) promotes effective and comprehensive HIV
9 prevention education programs both in and out of
10 schools as a tool to ensure that all people in the
11 United States are educated about HIV, as called for
12 in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy;

13 (4) urges youth-friendly and accessible health
14 care services to better provide for the early identi-
15 fication of HIV through voluntary routine testing,
16 and to connect those in need to clinically and cul-
17 turally appropriate care and treatment as early as
18 possible;

19 (5) commends the work of AIDS service organi-
20 zations, community and faith-based organizations,
21 and school-based health centers that are providing
22 youth-friendly, effective, prevention, treatment, care,

1 and support services to young people living with and
2 vulnerable to HIV/AIDS;

3 (6) recognizes the importance of interventions
4 that address young people's structural barriers to
5 living healthy lives, including accessible health care,
6 safe and inclusive schools and communities, family
7 acceptance, secure housing, excellent education, em-
8 ployment and legal protections, and poverty reduc-
9 tion initiatives;

10 (7) prioritizes youth leadership and develop-
11 ment in order to ensure youth involvement in deci-
12 sions which impact their health and well-being as a
13 necessary means to achieving an AIDS-free genera-
14 tion;

15 (8) requires the full implementation of the Na-
16 tional HIV/AIDS Strategy and its goals to reduce
17 new HIV infections, increase access to care and im-
18 prove health outcomes for people living with HIV,
19 reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities,
20 and achieve a more coordinated national response to
21 the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

22 (9) recommends a comprehensive prevention
23 and treatment strategy that empowers young people,
24 parents, public health workers, educators, faith lead-
25 ers, and other stakeholders to fully engage with their

1 communities and families to help decrease violence,
2 discrimination, and stigma towards individuals who
3 disclose their sexual orientation or HIV status; and
4 (10) calls for an AIDS-free generation that
5 prioritizes youth leadership and development in
6 order to ensure youth involvement in decisions which
7 impact their health and well-being as well as ad-
8 vance a pipeline for the next generation of HIV/
9 AIDS doctors, advocates, educators, researchers,
10 and other professionals.

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