

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 598 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, READSHAW, COHEN, KIM, DONATUCCI,
SCHWEYER, DAVIS, O'BRIEN, HENNESSEY, THOMAS, VEREB, DRISCOLL,
V. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, BULLOCK, ROSS, CALTAGIRONE,
MAHONEY, KIRKLAND, MARSICO, O'NEILL, FARINA, D. COSTA,
WHEELAND, WATSON AND GINGRICH, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 24, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 1, 2015, 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 5th of this year marked the 34th
8 anniversary 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

1 deaths reported in 2009; and

2 WHEREAS, The 2015 "World AIDS Day" theme is "The Time to Act
3 is Now," which signifies that there is no better time than
4 "World AIDS Day" to recommit to the goal of achieving an AIDS-
5 free generation, to celebrate the tremendous progress that has
6 been made in expanding access to HIV prevention, treatment and
7 care services and to focus on the potential to achieve
8 sustainable epidemic control and end AIDS as a public health
9 threat; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention, nearly 1.2 million people in the United States are
12 living with HIV and 12.8% of those people are unaware of their
13 infection; and

14 WHEREAS, Although African Americans represent approximately
15 12% of the United States population, they represented nearly 44%
16 of new HIV infections in 2010, while Latinos make up only 16% of
17 the United States population but represented 21% of new HIV
18 infections in 2010, and men who have sex with men accounted for
19 63% of all new HIV infections in 2010 although this group makes
20 up only 4% of the United States population; and

21 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is ranked 10th highest in the United
22 States in cumulative reported AIDS cases, with the percentage of
23 new HIV cases being highest among those 20 to 29 years of age;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health estimated that
26 28% of the 35,219 HIV/AIDS patients in this Commonwealth had
27 unmet needs for HIV primary medical care in 2009; and

28 WHEREAS, The overall number of persons in Pennsylvania living
29 with AIDS has been consistently rising, but the overall number
30 of AIDS-related deaths in Pennsylvania has been declining

1 through 2007, a trend thought to be largely a result of the use
2 of highly effective antiretroviral therapy as well as other
3 improvements in AIDS survival; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
5 December 1, 2015, as "World AIDS Day" to foster public awareness
6 of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to remember the millions of
7 individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and the global challenges
8 associated with eradicating this deadly disease.