
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 410 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY KIM, HENNESSEY, BAKER, MILLARD, BIZZARRO,
DONATUCCI, SIMS, DEAN, READSHAW, THOMAS, VITALI, HEFFLEY,
KINSEY, FREEMAN, VAZQUEZ, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, V. BROWN,
DRISCOLL, DAVIS, MEHAFFIE, SCHLOSSBERG, D. COSTA, SOLOMON,
BULLOCK, WARREN, NEILSON, WATSON, HILL-EVANS, ROZZI,
McCLINTON AND ROEBUCK, JUNE 20, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 20, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 27, 2017, as "National HIV Testing Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The term HIV stands for human immunodeficiency
4 virus, a devastating epidemic that continues to spread in
5 communities throughout the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention, more than 1,200,000 people in the United States are
8 living with HIV; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2015, approximately 40,000 people were diagnosed
10 with HIV, which represents an approximate 19% decline in the
11 annual number of new diagnoses from 2005 to 2014; and

12 WHEREAS, Although much progress has been made in the way of
13 HIV prevention, HIV diagnoses have increased among several
14 groups; and

15 WHEREAS, National statistics highlight that gay and bisexual

1 men account for more than 82% of HIV diagnoses and that African-
2 American gay and bisexual men account for the largest number of
3 HIV diagnoses; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2015, youths between 13 and 24 years of age
5 accounted for 1 in 5 new HIV diagnoses; and

6 WHEREAS, In the midst of the heroin/opioid abuse epidemic
7 plaguing our Commonwealth and the United States, it is
8 critically important that the medical community and health care
9 advocates continue to emphasize that the risk of contracting or
10 transmitting HIV increases exponentially with injection drug
11 use; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Health, there are
13 approximately 35,000 people living with HIV in this
14 Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 1 in 8 people living with HIV
16 are unaware of their infection; and

17 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
18 guidelines for HIV screening in health care settings recommend
19 at least one HIV screening for all individuals between 15 and 65
20 years of age, regardless of risk factors; and

21 WHEREAS, Thanks to extensive research and extraordinary
22 advances in medicine over the last two decades, individuals with
23 HIV are now living longer and have an overall better quality of
24 life; and

25 WHEREAS, With an early diagnosis and a proper treatment
26 regimen, individuals living with HIV can lead full and
27 productive lives while also taking a proactive role in reducing
28 the spread of the virus; and

29 WHEREAS, Individuals are more likely to act responsibly and
30 protect themselves and other individuals in the community when

1 they are aware of their HIV status; and

2 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to foster a
3 greater degree of awareness about the subjects of HIV, HIV
4 prevention, the importance of learning one's status by getting
5 tested and to remove the stigma and widespread misconceptions
6 associated with the virus; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize June
8 27, 2017, as "National HIV Testing Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
11 Pennsylvanians between 15 and 65 years of age to speak with
12 their primary care provider or locate a free and confidential
13 HIV testing site to get tested for HIV and to educate themselves
14 about the prevention and treatment of HIV.