

JAKE WHEATLEY, JR., MEMBER  
19TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
311 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202019  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2019  
PHONE: (717) 783-3783  
FAX: (717) 780-4753

"THE PEOPLE'S OFFICE":  
2015-2017 CENTRE AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219  
PHONE: (412) 471-7760  
FAX: (412) 471-8056

WEBSITE: [www.pahouse.net/wheatley](http://www.pahouse.net/wheatley)  
E-MAIL: [jwheatley@pahouse.net](mailto:jwheatley@pahouse.net)



**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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APPOINTMENT

PENNSYLVANIA'S GOVERNORS COUNCIL LIAISON  
FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS  
AND THE MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

## MEMORANDUM

To: All House Representatives  
From: Representative Jake Wheatley  
Re: Resolution to recognize December 1, 2011 as "World AIDS Day"  
Date: November 15, 2011

In the near future, I will introduce a resolution recognizing December 1, 2011 as "World AIDS Day."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that nearly 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV and 20% of those people are unaware of their infection. What is even more startling is that 32% of all HIV patients nationwide are diagnosed with AIDS within one year of being diagnosed with HIV. Given these compelling statistics, I strongly believe that recognizing "World AIDS Day" in Pennsylvania is pertinent in order to increase public awareness of this deadly pandemic.

Pennsylvania is ranked 7th highest in the U.S. in cumulative reported AIDS cases. The Department of Health reports that the overall number of persons in Pennsylvania living with AIDS has been consistently rising, with the 35-44 year age group accounting for the highest percentage at 37% of all cases in 2007. DOH also estimated that 29% of HIV/AIDS patients had unmet need for HIV primary medical care in 2008. However, the overall number of AIDS-related deaths in Pennsylvania has been declining through 2007. This trend is most likely due to improvements in AIDS survival.

"World AIDS Day" has been commemorated by many communities around the world since 1988. The 2011 World AIDS Day theme is "Getting to Zero," which signifies the global effort underway to reduce to zero the number of new HIV infections, the number of AIDS related deaths, and discrimination towards individuals living with HIV or AIDS. Please join me in recognizing December 1, 2011 as "World AIDS Day" in Pennsylvania.

If you wish to be added as a co-sponsor, please contact April Ashe at [Aashe@pahouse.net](mailto:Aashe@pahouse.net) or (717) 783-3783.