

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 490 Session of  
2019

---

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, KINSEY, BIZZARRO, DAWKINS, CRUZ, McNEILL,  
McCLINTON, HENNESSEY, FREEMAN, MURT, HARRIS, KORTZ,  
SCHLOSSBERG, DIGIROLAMO, RAVENSTAHL, SHUSTERMAN, WILLIAMS,  
YOUNGBLOOD, BURNS, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, MALAGARI, BERNSTINE,  
CALTAGIRONE, SCHWEYER AND KIM, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 18, 2019, as "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 36 million people in the world live with  
4 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a virus that affects the  
5 immune system by attacking its most important cells and  
6 weakening the body's response to infection; and

7 WHEREAS, HIV is carried for life and can often manifest into  
8 acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), as well as  
9 noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and  
10 arthritis; and

11 WHEREAS, Nearly half of Americans diagnosed with HIV in 2015  
12 were 50 years of age or older and nearly one in six HIV  
13 diagnoses in 2016 were in this age group; and

14 WHEREAS, It is now estimated that 1.1 million United States  
15 citizens currently live with HIV, with one in four individuals  
16 50 years of age or older being affected by the disease; and

1       WHEREAS, Many older adults are often just as much at risk as  
2 younger adults because they are unaware of the symptoms and  
3 prevention methods for HIV/AIDS; and

4       WHEREAS, Older adults are more likely to have late-stage HIV  
5 infection when diagnosed, and they experience the largest  
6 diagnosis delay compared to any other age group; and

7       WHEREAS, Older HIV patients and their health care providers  
8 should discuss prevention and care efforts for other diseases  
9 that they are at risk for given their age, including  
10 cardiovascular disease, certain cancers and osteoporosis; and

11       WHEREAS, Due to modern science and research, people living  
12 with HIV that have access to treatments are now able to live  
13 long and healthy lives; and

14       WHEREAS, By 2008, the United States HIV infection rate was  
15 considered stable and remains so today; and

16       WHEREAS, From 2011 to 2015, HIV diagnoses among people 50  
17 years of age or older decreased by 7%; and

18       WHEREAS, Days committed to educating the nation on HIV and  
19 AIDS have included "National HIV Testing Day," "National Gay  
20 Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" and "World AIDS Day," which began  
21 in 1988; and

22       WHEREAS, "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day" seeks to educate  
23 Pennsylvanians about HIV and what we as a Commonwealth can do to  
24 educate, prevent and treat this disease among our older adult  
25 population; and

26       WHEREAS, It is important that we as a Commonwealth know the  
27 history behind HIV and how it has impacted our State, country  
28 and the world; and

29       WHEREAS, "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day" is an opportunity  
30 for individuals in this Commonwealth to show their support for

1 older adults living with HIV, promote HIV testing, educate  
2 others on HIV and remember those whose lives were lost to this  
3 debilitating disease; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize  
5 September 18, 2019, as "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day" in  
6 Pennsylvania.