

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 983 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, A. DAVIS, KOSIEROWSKI, BURGOS, WEBSTER, HILL-EVANS, KULIK, KINSEY, BURNS, LONGIETTI, McCARTER, CRUZ, McNEILL, FREEMAN, ROZZI, HOHENSTEIN, DRISCOLL, HOWARD, INNAMORATO, BROOKS, DEASY, NEILSON, LEE, ZABEL, DELLOSO, GREEN, SANCHEZ AND McCLINTON, AUGUST 28, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, AUGUST 28, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 18, 2020, as "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 38 million people in the world live
4 with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a virus that affects
5 the 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, Individuals of any age, race, sex or sexual
12 orientation can be infected with HIV/AIDS, however, one is of
13 greatest risk if one engages in unprotected sex, has a sexually
14 transmitted infection or uses IV drugs; and

15 WHEREAS, It is now estimated that 1.2 million United States
16 citizens currently live with HIV, with one in seven individuals

1 not aware of their condition and in need of testing; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Older adults are more likely to have late-stage HIV
6 infection when diagnosed, and they experience the largest
7 diagnosis delay compared to any other age group, which means
8 they start treatment late and possibly suffer more immune system
9 damage; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, In 2018, 37,968 individuals received an HIV
18 diagnosis in the United States, although from 2014 through 2018,
19 the annual number and rate of diagnoses of HIV infection in the
20 United States decreased with varying trends for different
21 subgroups; and

22 WHEREAS, Of the 37,968 HIV diagnoses in 2018, adults 50 years
23 of age or older accounted for approximately 17% of new cases;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Days committed to educating the nation on HIV and
26 AIDS have included "National HIV Testing Day," "National Gay
27 Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" and "World AIDS Day," which began
28 in 1988; and

29 WHEREAS, "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day" seeks to educate
30 Pennsylvanians about HIV and what we as a Commonwealth can do to

1 educate, prevent and treat this disease among our older adult
2 population; and

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

6 WHEREAS, "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day" is an opportunity
7 for individuals in this Commonwealth to show their support for
8 older adults living with HIV, promote HIV testing, educate
9 others on HIV and remember those whose lives were lost to this
10 debilitating disease; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
12 September 18, 2020, as "HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day" in
13 Pennsylvania.