
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1005 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, HILL-EVANS, HANBIDGE, DRISCOLL, ULLMAN,
KULIK, LEE, McNEILL, SCHLOSSBERG, McCLINTON, BURNS, TOOHL,
FREEMAN, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI, THOMAS,
READSHAW, KINSEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, YOUNGBLOOD, O'MARA AND
DEASY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 1, 2020, as "World AIDS Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization established "World
4 AIDS Day" in 1988 to bring attention to the devastating impact
5 of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and remember those who have lost their
6 lives to the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, "World AIDS Day" is an opportunity to unite
8 individuals, organizations and local agencies across the world
9 to increase awareness and education about HIV/AIDS prevention,
10 treatment and care; and

11 WHEREAS, There are approximately 38 million people across the
12 globe living with HIV/AIDS; and

13 WHEREAS, Fortunately, AIDS-related deaths have been reduced
14 by 60% since the peak in 2004; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2019, approximately 690,000 deaths occurred
16 worldwide, compared to 1.1 million deaths worldwide in 2010; and

1 WHEREAS, However, the Centers for Disease Control and
2 Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1.2 million people are living
3 with HIV in the United States, with one in seven unaware of
4 their infection; and

5 WHEREAS, Populations at increased risk of HIV infection face
6 high levels of stigma due to their gender, sexual orientation,
7 gender identity, drug use or sex work; and

8 WHEREAS, Stigma toward people living with or at risk of HIV
9 discourages or delays the access of health care services,
10 including HIV prevention methods, HIV status testing, enrolling
11 in care and adhering to treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, The CDC reports that at the end of 2016, out of an
13 estimated 1.1 million people living with HIV in the United
14 States, 64% received HIV medical care, 49% were retained in care
15 and 53% achieved viral suppression, following the HIV continuum
16 care model; and

17 WHEREAS, People living with HIV may not receive continuous
18 medical care for various reasons, including the cost of medical
19 care and HIV drugs, stigma, lack of stable housing and
20 transportation; and

21 WHEREAS, The World AIDS Campaign was launched in 1997 by
22 UNAIDS, the joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS, with the
23 mission of raising public awareness of HIV/AIDS and promoting
24 nonjudgmental and nondiscriminatory access to HIV prevention,
25 treatment and care for all human beings; and

26 WHEREAS, For more than 20 years, UNAIDS has helped to
27 position, shape and scale up the response to HIV, encouraging
28 dialogue and bringing in communities that have been left out of
29 decision making; and

30 WHEREAS, It is imperative that all levels of government

1 recognize the various barriers that exist to HIV/AIDS
2 prevention, testing and care and continue to make efforts to
3 combat stigma and discrimination in order to improve health
4 outcomes for people living with HIV; and

5 WHEREAS, New HIV diagnoses continue at far too high a level,
6 with 37,968 Americans diagnosed with HIV in 2018; and

7 WHEREAS, Although the estimated number of annual HIV
8 infections in the United States declined 7% between 2014 and
9 2018, HIV/AIDS continues to disproportionately affect various
10 populations and diagnoses are not evenly distributed across
11 states and regions; and

12 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2018, the rate of new HIV
13 diagnosis was approximately 21 out of 100,000 of the population
14 amongst young adults who accounted for 13% of the overall
15 population; and

16 WHEREAS, Every year, on December 1 and throughout the month
17 of December, individuals and organizations across the world
18 speak out against the stigma and discrimination against
19 individuals with HIV/AIDS, and call for an increased response to
20 move forward to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives join other states
22 and countries around the world in recognizing December 1, 2020,
23 as "World AIDS Day" in an effort to increase awareness, provide
24 education about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate compassion for those
25 affected; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives remind the public
27 and government of the ongoing global challenges associated with
28 eradicating HIV and the essential role that communities have
29 played in the AIDS response at the international, national and
30 local levels.