



State Lawmakers Introduce Resolution backed by the Ohio Health Modernization Movement to Recognize World AIDS Day

Aim to End Stigma Around HIV/AIDS, Acknowledge 40th Anniversary of First Reported Cases

COLUMBUS, Dec. 1, 2021 – Today, the Ohio Health Modernization Movement (OHMM) coalition, along with Democratic State Representative Beth Liston, MD, brought a resolution to the Ohio House of Representatives that will formally recognize December 1, 2021, as World AIDS Day.

In addition to commemorating this important day, the resolution serves to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the first reported cases of HIV/AIDS; and commit to combating stigmas around HIV/AIDS to improve health outcomes to bring an end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ohio. Full resolution text is [HERE](#).

Resolution sponsor Representative Beth Liston (D) said in her press release, “After 40 years, science has made significant advances in the prevention and treatment of HIV. It is within our grasp to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ohio. As we work towards this, we must first end the stigma around living with HIV/AIDS. Recognizing World AIDS Day is one step in this direction,”

“This resolution tells the 25,000 Ohioans living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the family and friends of the 14,160 Ohioans we’ve lost to complications from HIV/AIDS that, ‘We see you, we value you, and we will do better by you,’” said Zach McCune, Associate Director of Public Policy, Equitas Health and OHMM coalition steering committee member.

“Ohioans can help get this resolution passed by [contacting their legislators](#) and demanding they vote YES on House Concurrent Resolution to formally recognize December 1st, 2021 as World AIDS Day. Please call or email your representatives today and ask them to support this important resolution,” Bryan C. Jones, an advocate, OHMM steering committee member and person living with HIV, said.

About OHMM: Our mission is to mobilize a broad coalition, including individuals and communities who are disproportionately impacted by HIV, to replace fear-based, stigmatizing laws that criminalize HIV-status with evidence-based, nondiscriminatory laws that protect public health. Our partners include Equality Ohio, Caracole, Equitas Health, Canapi, AHF-Ohio, AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland, doctors, lawmakers, public health officials, people living with HIV and many allies.

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