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134th General Assembly
Regular Session
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. C. R. No.

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

To recognize December 1, 2021, as World AIDS Day, to
acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the first reported
cases of HIV/AIDS, and to commit to combating stigma
around HIV/AIDS to improve health outcomes to bring an
end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ohio.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, We, the members of the 134th General Assembly of
the State of Ohio wish to recognize December 1, 2021, as World
AIDS Day; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day was first recognized in 1988 as one
of eight global public health campaigns created to raise
international awareness regarding a global epidemic that has
claimed more than 32.7 million lives; and

WHEREAS, Forty years ago, on June 5, 1981, the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the first five
cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired
immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); and

WHEREAS, In the United States, more than 675,000 people
have died of complications from AIDS since the beginning of the
epidemic, including 14,160 Ohioans; and



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WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, the rate of new diagnosis of HIV/AIDS among Black Ohioans is more than seven times that for White Ohioans, and the rate for Hispanic and Latina/Latino Ohioans is nearly three times that for White Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the disproportionate rates of new transmissions of HIV/AIDS among Black, Hispanic, and Latina/Latino Ohioans, men who have sex with men, youth, people who inject drugs, transgender and nonbinary individuals, people who have experienced incarceration, and sex workers are also disproportionately at risk of HIV; and

WHEREAS, Today, the CDC estimates that more than 1.1 million people in the United States are currently living with HIV, including nearly 25,000 Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, The national Ending the HIV Epidemic's (EHE) goal is to reduce new HIV infections by 90 per cent by 2040 by implementing strategies related to the plan's four pillars: Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond. Under the EHE plan, three CDC identified Ohio counties strategically collaborate with the CDC and local public health departments, community service agencies, and HIV health care providers to implement local activities to support the national framework; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Health administers funds and convenes work groups with Ohio counties to guide local planning activities in an effort to diagnose, treat, and prevent HIV; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has the ability to continue building upon the advancements of the last four decades and effectively end the HIV epidemic, and to do so, we, the members of the 134th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, must acknowledge and support the many medical advances that have improved health outcomes for

individuals living with or at risk of HIV; and 51

WHEREAS, In recent years clinical evidence has firmly 52
established that people living with HIV who achieve and maintain 53
an undetectable viral load through daily adherence to 54
antiretroviral therapy cannot sexually transmit the virus to 55
others, otherwise known as Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U). 56
Additionally, advances in preventative medicine are available 57
for those who may be at risk of contracting HIV. Pre-exposure 58
prophylaxis (PrEP) is a once daily medicine that is highly 59
effective in preventing HIV; and therefore, U=U and PrEP are 60
important tools to end the HIV epidemic; and 61

WHEREAS, A comprehensive approach to ending the HIV 62
epidemic in Ohio requires the removal of barriers to 63
implementing effective diagnosis, treatment, and prevention 64
methods. Stigma as well as HIV criminalization laws undercut the 65
ability to effectively prevent and treat HIV because they act as 66
a deterrent to individuals knowing their status and treating or 67
preventing the spread of HIV; now therefore be it 68

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 69
Assembly of the State of Ohio, recognize December 1, 2021, as 70
World AIDS Day; and be it further 71

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 72
Assembly of the State of Ohio, acknowledge the 40th anniversary 73
of the first reported cases of HIV/AIDS, and commit to combating 74
stigma; and be it further 75

RESOLVED, That we, the Members of the 134th General 76
Assembly of the State of Ohio, dedicate our efforts to support 77
the end of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ohio; and be it further 78

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 79
transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the 80
news media of Ohio. 81