

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 216

Supporting the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 1, 2009

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HARE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. CLEAVER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day.

Whereas the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that since the identification of AIDS in 1981, about 65,000,000 people have been infected with HIV, and more than 32,000,000 people have died of AIDS worldwide;

Whereas in 2008, UNAIDS estimated that 33,400,000 people were living with HIV around the world, over 2,000,000

people died of AIDS, and another 2,700,000 people were newly infected;

Whereas 280,000 children under the age of 15 died from AIDS in 2008, while 2,100,000 children were living with HIV, 90 percent of whom reside in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas each day over 1,000 children under the age of 15 become newly infected with HIV, and only 10 percent of pregnant women worldwide receive services to prevent HIV transmission to their newborns;

Whereas new infection rates among women are increasing, and now account for 15,700,000 infections and half of the adult population living with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas developing countries continue to bear the brunt of the AIDS pandemic with Sub-Saharan Africa serving as the home of 67 percent of all adults and children living with HIV, 60 percent of whom are women and girls;

Whereas people living with HIV/AIDS are frequently susceptible to other opportunistic infections, and according to the World Health Organization, in 2007 approximately 1,370,000 people living with HIV were also estimated to be co-infected with tuberculosis;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the United States, at the end of 2006, 1,106,400 people were living with HIV, and 21 percent did not know they were infected;

Whereas a total of 583,298 people have died of AIDS in the United States from the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic through 2007;

Whereas each year 56,300 people become newly infected with HIV in the United States, and on average, an individual is infected with HIV every 9½ minutes;

Whereas at the end of 2006, African-Americans represented 46 percent of all people living with HIV in the United States, Whites represented 35 percent, Hispanics represented 18 percent, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders represented 1 percent, and American Indians and Alaska Natives represented less than 1 percent;

Whereas men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly young MSM of color, have represented an increasing share of new HIV infections over the past decade and each year MSM account for 53 percent of all new infections;

Whereas men account for roughly 75 percent of all people living with HIV in the United States, and women represent 25 percent;

Whereas in the United States, African-American women are 18 times more likely to become newly infected with HIV than White women, and Hispanic women are 5 times more likely to have AIDS than non-Hispanic White women;

Whereas 5,259 young people aged 13 to 24 were newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 2006, representing about 14 percent of all new diagnoses in the United States during that year;

Whereas in order to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 was enacted into law on October 30, 2009, reauthorizing Federal HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs for 4 years and making funding available to United States metropolitan areas, States, and service providers to assist affected families and persons

living with HIV/AIDS with healthcare and support services;

Whereas to further focus attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998, Congress and the Clinton Administration created the Minority AIDS Initiative to provide funds to State and local institutions and organizations to best serve the healthcare costs and support the needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas Congress provided \$1,400,000 for the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) within the White House in the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act in order to develop a National AIDS Strategy to better coordinate and guide the Nation's response to HIV/AIDS;

Whereas ONAP has since conducted a series of town halls across the country to solicit feedback directly from communities impacted by HIV/AIDS in order to provide a basis for developing a National AIDS Strategy;

Whereas, on April 7, 2009, the CDC launched a new communication campaign, "Act Against AIDS", to facilitate awareness, public education, health literacy, health care provider marketing, and highly targeted behavior change communication objectives in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

Whereas to address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2000, Congress passed the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act, providing the first contribution and the founding framework for what became the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which provides grants to developing countries to combat the 3 diseases;

Whereas since the Global Fund was created in 2002, donors have pledged more than \$12,800,000,000 in funding, of

which \$4,400,000,000 has been donated by the United States;

Whereas as of December 2009, the Global Fund has supported treatment to over 2,500,000 people for HIV/AIDS, directly observed treatment to 6,000,000 people for tuberculosis, and over 104,000,000 insecticide treated-bednets to fight malaria;

Whereas in order to further address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2008, Congress reauthorized the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act, providing \$48,000,000,000 over 5 years to combat the 3 diseases;

Whereas, between fiscal years 2009 and 2013, PEPFAR programs aim to support care for 12,000,000 HIV-affected people, including children orphaned by AIDS, support the prevention of 12,000,000 new HIV infections; and help at least 3,000,000 people receive antiretroviral treatment;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2008, PEPFAR had supported the treatment of 2,100,000 people and supported the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission during more than 16,000,000 pregnancies, and had facilitated care for nearly 10,100,000 people, including more than 4,000,000 orphans and vulnerable children;

Whereas, between 2004 and 2009, Congress provided approximately \$24,752,000,000 to combat global HIV/AIDS through PEPFAR and the Global Fund;

Whereas as a result of these and other efforts, the rate of new HIV infections has declined by 17 percent since 2001 and the number of AIDS-related deaths has de-

clined by 10 percent over the last 5 years, due in part to the expansion of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs;

Whereas since the availability of effective HIV/AIDS treatments in 1996 and the increasing availability of treatments to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV since 2001, approximately 2,900,000 lives have been saved and approximately 200,000 new infections among children have been prevented;

Whereas in 2001, representatives and heads of state of 189 countries, including the United States, convened at the first-ever Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and unanimously adopted the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the United Nations Declaration of Commitment outlines prevention, treatment, and funding methods for achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;

Whereas in 2006, the United Nations General Assembly convened a High Level Meeting on AIDS, pledging to move toward the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care, and support by 2010;

Whereas in 2008, the United Nations General Assembly convened a second High Level Meeting on AIDS to review progress towards achieving the goal of universal access and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the concept of World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention and was established to focus attention on the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

Whereas December 1 is now recognized as World AIDS Day and has been taken up by governments, international organizations, and charities around the world; and

Whereas the theme of World AIDS Day 2009 is “Universal Access and Human Rights” and is intended to focus attention on the goal of providing universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support programs and the fundamental need to support and protect human rights for all people, particularly vulnerable and marginalized populations, in order to achieve this goal: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of World
4 AIDS Day and recognizes the 21st anniversary of
5 observing this day;

6 (2) commends the President, State, and local
7 governments, including their public health agencies,
8 for recognizing this day, for publicizing its impor-
9 tance among their communities, and for encouraging
10 individuals to undergo testing for HIV;

11 (3) commends national, State, and local media
12 organizations for carrying messages in support of
13 World AIDS Day;

14 (4) supports continued funding for prevention,
15 care, treatment services, and research programs for
16 persons living with HIV/AIDS in the United States
17 including, through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS

1 Treatment Extension Act, the Minority HIV/AIDS
2 Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
3 vention, the National Institutes of Health, the Sub-
4 stance Abuse and Mental Health Services Adminis-
5 tration, the Office of Minority Health, and the Of-
6 fice of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

7 (5) supports the development of a national
8 AIDS strategy with clear goals and objectives to re-
9 duce new HIV infections, especially among African-
10 Americans, men who have sex with men, and other
11 vulnerable communities;

12 (6) supports continued funding for the Presi-
13 dent's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief and the
14 Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Ma-
15 laria to provide prevention, care, and treatment to
16 combat HIV/AIDS in developing countries;

17 (7) supports the goal of providing universal ac-
18 cess to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treat-
19 ment, care, and support programs;

20 (8) supports the goal of protecting human
21 rights for all people, including vulnerable and
22 marginalized populations such as men who have sex
23 with men, injecting drug users, and sex workers; and

24 (9) supports efforts to address the factors that
25 make populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS by de-

- 1 creasing poverty and hunger, expanding educational
- 2 opportunities for children, and empowering women.

