

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 308

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2019

Ms. LEE of California submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

Whereas National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide observance that calls on people to take action to invest in the health, education, and leadership of young people;

Whereas more than 30 years into the epidemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the United States more than 1,200,000 people are living with HIV, and every year approximately 40,000 people acquire HIV;

Whereas in the United States, almost 40 percent of new HIV infections are young people ages 13 to 20;

Whereas young people ages 13 to 24 account for one in five of the estimated 40,000 new HIV cases diagnosed each year in the United States;

Whereas 41 percent of HIV-positive youth ages 13 to 24 do not know they carry the HIV virus;

Whereas African-American youth bear a disproportionate burden of the epidemic, representing 57 percent of new infections in young people ages 13 to 24;

Whereas young African-American men who have sex with men (MSM) ages 13 to 24 comprise 34 percent of new infections among all Black males;

Whereas the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) is the only Federal program supporting HIV prevention for adolescents in schools;

Whereas the Nation's largest Federal program dedicated to providing care and treatment for people living with HIV was named after Ryan White, a teenager from Indiana who helped educate a Nation about HIV and AIDS in the 1980s;

Whereas the Ryan White Part D Program is one of the national efforts to link HIV-positive youth to medical care and support services;

Whereas the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) provides youth, including those at risk for and living with HIV/AIDS, better access to health care coverage, more health insurance options, additional funding for sex education, a prohibition against denying people living with HIV access to health care, and expanded access to Medicaid which will help more HIV-positive youth receive care; and

Whereas April 10 of each year is now recognized as National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2           (1) supports the goals and ideals of National  
3       Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day;

4           (2) encourages State and local governments, in-  
5       cluding their public health agencies, education agen-  
6       cies, schools, and media organizations to recognize  
7       and support such a day;

8           (3) promotes effective and comprehensive HIV  
9       prevention education programs both in and out of  
10      schools as a tool to ensure that all people in the  
11      United States are educated about HIV, as called for  
12      in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy;

13          (4) urges youth-friendly and accessible health  
14      care services to better provide for the early identi-  
15      fication of HIV through voluntary routine testing,  
16      and to connect those in need to clinically and cul-  
17      turally appropriate care and treatment as early as  
18      possible;

19          (5) commends the work of AIDS service organi-  
20      zations, community and faith-based organizations,  
21      and school-based health centers that are providing  
22      youth-friendly, effective, prevention, treatment, care,

1 and support services to young people living with and  
2 vulnerable to HIV/AIDS;

3 (6) recognizes the importance of interventions  
4 that address young people's structural barriers to  
5 living healthy lives, including accessible health care,  
6 safe and inclusive schools and communities, family  
7 acceptance, secure housing, excellent education, em-  
8 ployment and legal protections, and poverty reduc-  
9 tion initiatives;

10 (7) prioritizes youth leadership and develop-  
11 ment in order to ensure youth involvement in deci-  
12 sions which impact their health and well-being as a  
13 necessary means to achieving an AIDS-free genera-  
14 tion;

15 (8) requires the full implementation of the Na-  
16 tional HIV/AIDS Strategy and its goals to reduce  
17 new HIV infections, increase access to care and im-  
18 prove health outcomes for people living with HIV,  
19 reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities,  
20 and achieve a more coordinated national response to  
21 the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

22 (9) recommends a comprehensive prevention  
23 and treatment strategy that empowers young people,  
24 parents, public health workers, educators, faith lead-  
25 ers, and other stakeholders to fully engage with their

1 communities and families to help decrease violence,  
2 discrimination, and stigma towards individuals who  
3 disclose their sexual orientation or HIV status; and  
4 (10) calls for an AIDS-free generation that  
5 prioritizes youth leadership and development in  
6 order to ensure youth involvement in decisions which  
7 impact their health and well-being as well as ad-  
8 vance a pipeline for the next generation of HIV/  
9 AIDS doctors, advocates, educators, researchers,  
10 and other professionals.

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