

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1045

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2022

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MENG, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BASS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. TITUS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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 40 years into the epidemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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 2019, youth aged 13 to 24 years composed 21 percent of the 36,398 new HIV diagnoses in the United States;

Whereas young people living with HIV are the least likely of any age group to be retained in care and have a suppressed viral load;

Whereas 44 percent of young people living with HIV ages 13 to 24 are unaware of their HIV status;

Whereas African-American youth are most impacted by the epidemic, representing 57 percent of new transmissions in young people ages 13 to 24;

Whereas African-American young men who have sex with men ages 13 to 24 comprise 34 percent or one-third of new transmissions among all young men who have sex with men;

Whereas the National HIV/AIDS Strategy expands the fact that youth experience worse HIV outcomes on status awareness, pre-exposure prophylaxis uptake, and health outcomes;

Whereas the National HIV/AIDS Strategy recommends children and young adults with HIV need tailored and often more intensive medical and support services to support them as they grow and become young adults;

Whereas the Division of Adolescent and School Health 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 young people living with HIV to medical care and support services;

Whereas the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides youth, including those living with or impacted by HIV and 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 support more young people living with HIV receiving 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) supports young people’s right to education,
9 prevention, treatment, and care, and to live without
10 criminalization, discrimination, oppression, and stig-
11 ma;

12 (4) promotes up-to-date, inclusive, culturally re-
13 sponsible, and medically accurate information about
14 HIV, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis PreP, in sex

1 education curricula to ensure that all young people
2 are educated about HIV, as called for in the Na-
3 tional HIV/AIDS Strategy;

4 (5) supports removal of HIV laws that are sci-
5 entifically inaccurate and unfairly criminalize young
6 people living with HIV for behaviors that are con-
7 sensual or have no risk of transmission;

8 (6) urges youth-friendly and accessible health
9 care services, especially access to medications such
10 as pre-exposure prophylaxis, post-exposure prophylaxis,
11 and antiretroviral therapy without parental
12 consent, to better provide for the early identification
13 of HIV through voluntary routine testing, and to
14 connect those in need to clinically and culturally ap-
15 propriate care and treatment as early as possible;

16 (7) supports the increase of funding for pro-
17 grams that support people impacted by and living
18 with HIV, including Centers for Disease Control and
19 Prevention Division of Adolescent and School
20 Health, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, the
21 Medicaid program, AIDS Drug Assistance Pro-
22 grams, and programs that support medical
23 mentorship, peer navigation, educating communities
24 on testing and treatment options, and people access-

1 ing PrEP, and ensure a smoother transition to adult
2 HIV care;

3 (8) recommends a comprehensive prevention
4 and treatment strategy that empowers young people,
5 parents, public health workers, educators, faith lead-
6 ers, and other stakeholders to fully engage with their
7 communities and families to help decrease violence,
8 discrimination, and stigma toward individuals who
9 disclose their sexual orientation or HIV status; and

10 (9) calls for a generation free of HIV stigma in
11 a manner that prioritizes youth leadership and devel-
12 opment in order to ensure youth involvement in deci-
13 sions which impact their health and well-being as
14 well as advance a pipeline for the next generation of
15 HIV and AIDS doctors, advocates, educators, re-
16 searchers, and other professionals.

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