
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 246 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, COSTA, SABATINA, DINNIMAN, FONTANA,
BREWSTER, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, PILEGGI AND KITCHEN,
NOVEMBER 18, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 1, 2015, as "World AIDS Day," fostering
2 public awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and remembering the
3 millions of individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and the
4 global challenges associated with eradicating this deadly
5 disease.

6 WHEREAS, "World AIDS Day" has been commemorated annually
7 since 1988, and June 5th of this year marked the 34th
8 anniversary of the first reported AIDS case; and

9 WHEREAS, The World AIDS Campaign was launched in 1997 by
10 UNAIDS, the joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS, and the
11 mission of UNAIDS is to raise public awareness of HIV/AIDS and
12 to promote nonjudgmental and nondiscriminatory access to HIV
13 prevention, treatment and care for all human beings; and

14 WHEREAS, UNAIDS reports that there were 36.9 million people
15 worldwide living with HIV at the end of 2014; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2014, UNAIDS reported 1.2 million AIDS-related
17 deaths, a decrease compared to the 1.8 million AIDS-related
18 deaths reported in 2009; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2015 "World AIDS Day" theme is "The Time to Act

1 is Now," which signifies that there is no better time than
2 "World AIDS Day" to recommit to the goal of achieving an AIDS-
3 free generation, to celebrate the tremendous progress that has
4 been made in expanding access to HIV prevention, treatment and
5 care services and to focus on the potential to achieve
6 sustainable epidemic control and end AIDS as a public health
7 threat; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention (CDC), nearly 1.2 million people in the United States
10 are living with HIV and 12.8% of those people are unaware of
11 their infection; and

12 WHEREAS, Although African Americans represent approximately
13 12% of the United States population, they represented nearly 44%
14 of new HIV infections in 2010, while Latinos make up only 16% of
15 the United States population but represented 21% of new HIV
16 infections in 2010, and men who have sex with men accounted for
17 63% of all new HIV infections in 2010 although this group makes
18 up only 4% of the United States population; and

19 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is ranked 10th highest in the United
20 States in cumulative reported AIDS cases, with the percentage of
21 new HIV cases being highest among those 20 to 29 years of age;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health estimated that
24 28% of the 35,219 HIV/AIDS patients in this Commonwealth had
25 unmet needs for HIV primary medical care in 2009; and

26 WHEREAS, The overall number of persons in Pennsylvania living
27 with AIDS has been consistently rising, but the overall number
28 of AIDS-related deaths in Pennsylvania has been declining
29 through 2007, a trend thought to be largely a result of the
30 administration of highly active antiretroviral therapy as well

1 as other improvements in AIDS survival; therefore be it
2 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize December 1, 2015, as
3 "World AIDS Day" to foster public awareness of the HIV/AIDS
4 pandemic and to remember the millions of individuals diagnosed
5 with HIV/AIDS and the global challenges associated with
6 eradicating this deadly disease.