

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 296

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2021

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. TONKO) 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 44 percent of young people living with HIV (YPLWHIV) 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 (YMSM) ages 13 to 24 comprise 51 percent of new transmissions among all YMSM;

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 YPLWHIV to medical care and support services;

Whereas the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) 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 YPLWHIV 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, in sex edu-  
15 cation curricula to ensure that all young people are  
16 educated about HIV, as called for in the National  
17 HIV/AIDS Strategy;

18              (5) supports removal of HIV laws that are sci-  
19 entifically inaccurate and unfairly criminalize young  
20 people living with HIV for behaviors that are con-  
21 sensual or have no risk of transmissions;

22              (6) urges youth-friendly and accessible health  
23 care services, especially access to medications such  
24 as pre-exposure prophylaxis, post-exposure prophylaxis,  
25 and antiretroviral therapy without parental

1 consent, to better provide for the early identification  
2 of HIV through voluntary routine testing, and to  
3 connect those in need to clinically and culturally ap-  
4 propriate care and treatment as early as possible;

5 (7) supports the increase of funding for pro-  
6 grams that support people impacted by and living  
7 with HIV, including CDC DASH, the Ryan White  
8 HIV/AIDS Program, the Medicaid program, AIDS  
9 Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs), and programs  
10 that support medical mentorship, peer navigation,  
11 educating communities on testing and treatment op-  
12 tions, and people accessing PrEP, and ensure a  
13 smoother transition to adult HIV care;

14 (8) recommends a comprehensive prevention  
15 and treatment strategy that empowers young people,  
16 parents, public health workers, educators, faith lead-  
17 ers, and other stakeholders to fully engage with their  
18 communities and families to help decrease violence,  
19 discrimination, and stigma towards individuals who  
20 disclose their sexual orientation or HIV status; and

21 (9) calls for a generation free of HIV stigma in  
22 a manner that prioritizes youth leadership and devel-  
23 opment in order to ensure youth involvement in deci-  
24 sions which impact their health and well-being as  
25 well as advance a pipeline for the next generation of

- 1 HIV and AIDS doctors, advocates, educators, re-
- 2 searchers, and other professionals.

