

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**H. C. R. No. 39**

**Representative Liston**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Miranda, Galonski, Boggs, Kelly, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, A., Blackshear, Miller, J., Brent, Russo, Crossman, Sheehy, Weinstein, Sweeney, Lightbody, Humphrey, Sobacki, Brown, Boyd, Skindell, Smith, M.**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To recognize December 1, 2021, as World AIDS Day, to 1  
acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the first reported 2  
cases of HIV/AIDS, and to commit to combating stigma 3  
around HIV/AIDS to improve health outcomes to bring an 4  
end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ohio. 5

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, We, the members of the 134th General Assembly of 6  
the State of Ohio wish to recognize December 1, 2021, as World 7  
AIDS Day; and 8

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day was first recognized in 1988 as one 9  
of eight global public health campaigns created to raise 10  
international awareness regarding a global epidemic that has 11  
claimed more than 32.7 million lives; and 12

WHEREAS, Forty years ago, on June 5, 1981, the Centers for 13  
Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the first five 14  
cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired 15  
immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); and 16

WHEREAS, In the United States, more than 675,000 people 17

have died of complications from AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, including 14,160 Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, the rate of new diagnosis of HIV/AIDS among Black Ohioans is more than seven times that for White Ohioans, and the rate for Hispanic and Latina/Latino Ohioans is nearly three times that for White Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the disproportionate rates of new transmissions of HIV/AIDS among Black, Hispanic, and Latina/Latino Ohioans, men who have sex with men, youth, people who inject drugs, transgender and nonbinary individuals, people who have experienced incarceration, and sex workers are also disproportionately at risk of HIV; and

WHEREAS, Today, the CDC estimates that more than 1.1 million people in the United States are currently living with HIV, including nearly 25,000 Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, The national Ending the HIV Epidemic's (EHE) goal is to reduce new HIV infections by 90 per cent by 2040 by implementing strategies related to the plan's four pillars: Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond. Under the EHE plan, three CDC identified Ohio counties strategically collaborate with the CDC and local public health departments, community service agencies, and HIV health care providers to implement local activities to support the national framework; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Health administers funds and convenes work groups with Ohio counties to guide local planning activities in an effort to diagnose, treat, and prevent HIV; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has the ability to continue building upon the advancements of the last four decades and effectively end the HIV epidemic, and to do so, we, the members of the 134th General

Assembly of the State of Ohio, must acknowledge and support the 49  
many medical advances that have improved health outcomes for 50  
individuals living with or at risk of HIV; and 51

WHEREAS, In recent years clinical evidence has firmly 52  
established that people living with HIV who achieve and maintain 53  
an undetectable viral load through daily adherence to 54  
antiretroviral therapy cannot sexually transmit the virus to 55  
others, otherwise known as Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U). 56  
Additionally, advances in preventative medicine are available 57  
for those who may be at risk of contracting HIV. Pre-exposure 58  
prophylaxis (PrEP) is a once daily medicine that is highly 59  
effective in preventing HIV; and therefore, U=U and PrEP are 60  
important tools to end the HIV epidemic; and 61

WHEREAS, A comprehensive approach to ending the HIV 62  
epidemic in Ohio requires the removal of barriers to 63  
implementing effective diagnosis, treatment, and prevention 64  
methods. Stigma as well as HIV criminalization laws undercut the 65  
ability to effectively prevent and treat HIV because they act as 66  
a deterrent to individuals knowing their status and treating or 67  
preventing the spread of HIV; now therefore be it 68

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 69  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, recognize December 1, 2021, as 70  
World AIDS Day; and be it further 71

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 72  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, acknowledge the 40th anniversary 73  
of the first reported cases of HIV/AIDS, and commit to combating 74  
stigma; and be it further 75

RESOLVED, That we, the Members of the 134th General 76  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, dedicate our efforts to support 77  
the end of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ohio; and be it further 78

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 79

transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the  
news media of Ohio.

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