

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.

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 18
epidemic, including 14,160 Ohioans; and 19

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, the 20
rate of new diagnosis of HIV/AIDS among Black Ohioans is more 21
than seven times that for White Ohioans, and the rate for 22
Hispanic and Latina/Latino Ohioans is nearly three times that 23
for White Ohioans; and 24

WHEREAS, In addition to the disproportionate rates of new 25
transmissions of HIV/AIDS among Black, Hispanic, and 26
Latina/Latino Ohioans, men who have sex with men, youth, people 27
who inject drugs, transgender and nonbinary individuals, people 28
who have experienced incarceration, and sex workers are also 29
disproportionately at risk of HIV; and 30

WHEREAS, Today, the CDC estimates that more than 1.1 31
million people in the United States are currently living with 32
HIV, including nearly 25,000 Ohioans; and 33

WHEREAS, The national Ending the HIV Epidemic's (EHE) goal 34
is to reduce new HIV infections by 90 per cent by 2040 by 35
implementing strategies related to the plan's four pillars: 36
Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond. Under the EHE plan, three 37
CDC identified Ohio counties strategically collaborate with the 38
CDC and local public health departments, community service 39
agencies, and HIV health care providers to implement local 40
activities to support the national framework; and 41

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Health administers funds 42
and convenes work groups with Ohio counties to guide local 43
planning activities in an effort to diagnose, treat, and prevent 44
HIV; and 45

WHEREAS, Ohio has the ability to continue building upon the 46
advancements of the last four decades and effectively end the 47
HIV epidemic, and to do so, we, the members of the 134th General 48

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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