

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 592

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2009

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MASSA, Ms. KILROY, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day, and for other purposes.

Whereas HIV/AIDS is a devastating epidemic that continues to spread in communities throughout the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,700,000 people in the United States have been infected by HIV/AIDS since the first cases were reported 28 years ago;

Whereas there are approximately 1,100,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States today;

Whereas there are approximately 56,000 new HIV infections and more than 14,000 new AIDS-related deaths every year in the United States;

Whereas HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly among women, young people, and racial minorities, all of which are demographic groups that were not considered to be at significant risk of HIV infection during the early years of the epidemic;

Whereas women account for 27 percent of new AIDS cases in the United States, and teen girls account for 39 percent of new AIDS cases among teenagers;

Whereas African-Americans account for about half of new AIDS cases, although only 12 percent of the population as a whole is Black;

Whereas Hispanic-Americans account for 19 percent of new AIDS cases, although only 15 percent of the population as a whole is Hispanic;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 1 percent of new AIDS cases, and Native Americans and Alaskan Natives account for up to 1 percent of new AIDS cases;

Whereas African-American women account for 65 percent of new AIDS cases among women;

Whereas 71 percent of new AIDS cases are people of color;

Whereas about 21 percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States do not know they are infected;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for HIV screening in healthcare settings recommend routine HIV testing for all patients between the ages of 13 and 64, regardless of risk factors;

Whereas individuals are more likely to act responsibly and protect themselves and other persons in the community when they know their HIV status;

Whereas encouraging people to be tested for HIV is a critical element in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts;

Whereas individuals who are HIV-positive must learn their status in order to obtain counseling on managing their health, access appropriate medical and social services, begin life-prolonging treatment, and take actions to avoid spreading the virus to others;

Whereas physicians, physician's assistants, nurses, dentists, and other clinicians play a vital role in providing access to HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, treatment, and referral services, and in encouraging patients to get tested for HIV;

Whereas Howard University College of Medicine has declared Tuesday, July 21, 2009, to be the second annual National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day in an effort to encourage clinicians nationwide to become actively involved in HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, treatment, and referral services;

Whereas a diverse group of organizations representing communities affected by HIV/AIDS have partnered with Howard University College of Medicine to promote the goals and ideals of National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day;

Whereas the second annual National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day will give all physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, and other clinicians an opportunity to get personally involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS by taking an HIV test, personally dem-

onstrating the importance as well as the ease of HIV testing;

Whereas the National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day will be a call to action to clinicians nationwide to lead the way in dispelling the myths and stigma associated with HIV testing and become vocal advocates for patients and communities; and

Whereas the National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day will encourage clinicians to become actively involved in HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, treatment, and referral services: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of the second
3 annual National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and
4 Awareness Day;

5 (2) encourages primary care physicians and
6 other clinicians nationwide to become actively in-
7 volved in HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, treatment,
8 and referral services;

9 (3) encourages the media to observe the second
10 annual National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and
11 Awareness Day by educating clinicians about the im-
12 portant role they play in providing access to HIV/
13 AIDS awareness, testing, treatment, and referral
14 services and by educating clinicians and the public
15 about the benefits of HIV testing; and

- 1 (4) encourages individuals to get tested for HIV
- 2 and educate themselves about the prevention and
- 3 treatment of HIV/AIDS.

