

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 180

Calling on the President to urge the other members of the Group of Eight (G–8) at the upcoming G–8 meeting from June 1–3, 2003, in Evian, France, to pledge and contribute a substantial amount of new resources to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2003

Ms. LEE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the President to urge the other members of the Group of Eight (G–8) at the upcoming G–8 meeting from June 1–3, 2003, in Evian, France, to pledge and contribute a substantial amount of new resources to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Whereas the United States is a key participant in the Group of Eight (G–8) meetings along with France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Russia, and including the European Union as an official observer;

Whereas the G–8 meetings serve as an important venue for heads of state to discuss a range of issues, including the economy, conflict resolution, sustainable development, and global health;

Whereas the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that over 42,000,000 individuals are currently living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, and over 25,000,000 people have already died of the disease;

Whereas high rates of HIV/AIDS have contributed to poor health, malnutrition and food insecurity, the deterioration of education systems, the social dislocation of orphans and vulnerable children, and undermined the effectiveness of military forces, and, have the potential to create political instability in governments struggling to care for their affected populations;

Whereas the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that tuberculosis is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and individuals infected with HIV/AIDS, killing more than 2,000,000 people a year, while more than 8,000,000 people become sick with tuberculosis every year;

Whereas individuals living with HIV/AIDS are particularly vulnerable to the malaria parasite, which the World Health Organization estimates has infected more than 300,000,000 people, and which is responsible for more than 1,000,000 deaths annually;

Whereas previous meetings of the G-8 have supported the development of initiatives to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria;

Whereas at the 1987 meeting in Venice, the heads of state and the European Community identified AIDS as one of the biggest potential health problems in the world and agreed to intensify national efforts and international cooperation through concerted campaigns to educate the public and prevent AIDS from spreading further;

Whereas at the 1989 meeting in Paris, the heads of state commented on the international cooperation against AIDS and commended the creation of an International Ethics Committee on AIDS, as suggested at the Venice Summit in 1987;

Whereas at the 1996 meeting in Lyons, the heads of state recognized HIV/AIDS as a global epidemic and called for greater cooperation in research, prevention, accessible and affordable health care services, and treatment diagnostics to control AIDS and other infectious diseases;

Whereas at the 1996 meeting in Lyons, the group further pledged to extend various kinds of assistance programs to those countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, and expressed strong support for UNAIDS;

Whereas at the 1997 meeting in Denver, the heads of state identified HIV/AIDS along with drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, as being responsible for over a third of all deaths in the world, and declared the prevention of HIV/AIDS as an urgent global public health imperative;

Whereas at the 1997 meeting in Denver, the group also pledged to provide the resources necessary to accelerate AIDS vaccine research, and to allow UNAIDS to fulfill its mandate;

Whereas at the 1998 meeting in Birmingham, the heads of state again reaffirmed the importance of international efforts to reduce AIDS through vaccine development, preventive programs, and appropriate therapy, including continued support for UNAIDS;

Whereas at the 1999 meeting in Cologne, the heads of state reiterated their concern regarding the global spread of

AIDS and the necessity to continue efforts to combat AIDS through a combined strategy of prevention, vaccine development and appropriate therapy;

Whereas at the 1999 meeting in Cologne, the group also highlighted the importance of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in allowing developing nations to invest more resources in AIDS prevention;

Whereas at the 2000 meeting in Okinawa, the heads of state noted the relationship between HIV/AIDS and poverty, applauded the recent AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa, and agreed to work with the United Nations to organize a conference focusing on strategies to facilitate access to AIDS treatment and care;

Whereas the 2000 meeting in Okinawa was also significant for producing an ambitious plan to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria;

Whereas at the 2001 meeting in Genoa, the heads of state reaffirmed their commitment to the plan developed at Okinawa, and in addition announced their support for the newly created Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to which they committed \$1,300,000,000;

Whereas, as a public-private partnership, the Global Fund would provide additional financing consistent with existing programs, to be integrated into the national health plans of partner countries;

Whereas the G-8 expects the Global Fund to operate according to principles of proven scientific and medical effectiveness, rapid resource transfer, low transaction costs, and light governance with a strong focus on outcomes;

Whereas the G–8 also pledged to work with the pharmaceutical industry and with affected countries in the context of the Global Fund to facilitate the broadest possible provision of drugs in an affordable and medically effective manner;

Whereas at the 2002 meeting in Kananaskis, the heads of state outlined a comprehensive set of specific strategies in order to help Africa combat the AIDS pandemic, including building sustainable health systems in order to deliver effective disease interventions, and continuing support for the Global Fund;

Whereas the 2002 meeting in Kananaskis also produced a report that focused on the effect of HIV/AIDS on educational systems, including the recruitment and retention of teachers and their ability to reinforce the importance of prevention, and in the difficulties in educating the 13,000,000 children orphaned by AIDS;

Whereas the G–8 meeting in 2003 will be taking place from June 1–3 in Evian, France;

Whereas French President Jacques Chirac indicated that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases would be on the agenda as a priority for the G–8 summit in Evian, saying in a speech to the diplomatic corps on January 7, 2003, that “[t]he [AIDS] epidemic is progressing faster than our efforts to contain it . . . [i]t is a major obstacle to development and to the stability of a number of regions . . . [w]e have come a long way . . . [t]reatments exist; we have created the Global Fund, which must be maintained on a long-term basis; we recognized [at the World Trade Organization negotiations] in Doha, that the poor countries need to have access to medicines at affordable

prices . . . [o]ur task in Evian will be to make progress on [implementing these] decisions”;

Whereas on January 28, 2003, in his State of the Union Address, President Bush announced an emergency plan for AIDS relief and committed the United States to providing \$15,000,000,000 over 5 years to address the global AIDS pandemic; and

Whereas on May 1, 2003, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1298, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003, to authorize the \$15,000,000,000 pledged by the President: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) reaffirms its support for a comprehensive
4 international response to the global HIV/AIDS, tu-
5 berculosis, and malaria pandemics, that encompasses
6 prevention, testing, care, treatment, and vaccine re-
7 search; and

8 (2) calls on the President, at the G–8 meeting
9 from June 1–3, 2003, in Evian, France—

10 (A) to convey the considerable and urgent
11 interest of the United States to combat all
12 three of these pandemics and to encourage the
13 other G–8 members, including representatives
14 of the European Union, to pledge and con-
15 tribute a substantial amount of new resources
16 to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis,

1 and malaria, in order to complement the recent
2 commitment of the United States; and

3 (B) to urge all G-8 members and the Eu-
4 ropean Union to actively support and provide
5 adequate funding for the Global Fund to Fight
6 AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in partnership
7 with other donor nations, the private sector,
8 and interested foundations.

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