

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 123

Recognizing the potential for the virtual elimination of pediatric HIV and AIDS and keeping HIV positive mothers alive.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2012

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. McCOLLUM, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. HAHN, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. McGOVERN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the potential for the virtual elimination of pediatric HIV and AIDS and keeping HIV positive mothers alive.

Whereas despite global efforts, 1,000 children around the world still contract HIV each day, the majority through mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

Whereas approximately half of the 34 million people living with HIV around the world are women, and 3.4 million are children as of 2010;

Whereas 90 percent of children living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas as of 2010 only 23 percent of children in need were receiving antiretroviral therapy;

Whereas without any medical attention, half of all HIV-positive children will die before their second birthday without diagnosis and treatment;

Whereas a quarter of a million children worldwide died of AIDS-related illness in 2010;

Whereas over 15 million women of childbearing age were living with HIV in 2010;

Whereas nearly 90 percent of HIV-positive expectant mothers in need of services worldwide live in 22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and India;

Whereas the United States began investing in prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services in 2002 with the announcement of the United States International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative;

Whereas in 2005 only 14 percent of women were receiving prevention of mother-to-child transmission services and that number is now nearly 50 percent;

Whereas when antiretroviral drugs are used as prophylaxis, mother-to-child transmission of HIV can be reduced to less than 5 percent;

Whereas in fiscal year 2011, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) directly supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 9.8 million pregnant women and provision of antiretroviral drug prophylaxis to prevent mother-to-child transmission for more than 660,000 of these women who tested positive for HIV, al-

lowing approximately 200,000 infants to be born HIV-free;

Whereas in June 2011, the United States joined UNAIDS and over 70 partner countries, international and civil society organizations and private sector entities in launching the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive;

Whereas 90 percent of pediatric HIV infections are from mother-to-child transmission, 100 percent are preventable;

Whereas every mother should have the opportunity to fight for the life of her child; and

Whereas every family should have the opportunity to keep its mother healthy and alive: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes that the prevention of mother-to-
4 child transmission of HIV is critical to stopping the
5 spread of HIV worldwide;

6 (2) recognizes that the fight to eliminate pedi-
7 atric HIV has been a priority area in the United
8 States AIDS response for the past decade, and that
9 this leadership should continue;

10 (3) supports providing women with HIV coun-
11 seling and testing services where possible, and scal-
12 ing up access to services that prevent mother-to-
13 child transmission of HIV;

1 (4) calls for greater access to more efficacious
2 antiretroviral drug regimens for the health of women
3 and children living with HIV and as prophylaxis to
4 stop HIV transmission from mother-to-child during
5 pregnancy, delivery, and breastfeeding; and

6 (5) fully support United States led, and inter-
7 national efforts, to create a generation free of HIV,
8 to eliminate new pediatric HIV infections worldwide,
9 and to keep the mothers of that generation alive.

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