

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 532

Expressing support for the XIX International AIDS Conference and the sense of the Senate that continued commitment by the United States to HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment programs is crucial to protecting global health.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2012

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KOHL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the XIX International AIDS Conference and the sense of the Senate that continued commitment by the United States to HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment programs is crucial to protecting global health.

Whereas, according to UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, there are approximately 33,400,000 people living with HIV worldwide, and nearly 30,000,000 people have died of AIDS since the first cases were reported in 1981;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 1,000,000 people are living with HIV and approximately 50,000 people become newly infected with the virus each year;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 5 individuals living with HIV is unaware of the infection, underscoring the need for greater education about HIV/AIDS and access to testing;

Whereas societal stigma remains a significant challenge to addressing HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the United States is heavily engaged in both international and domestic efforts to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including—

(1) the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (commonly known as “PEPFAR”);

(2) the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(3) title XXIV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300dd et seq.) (originally enacted as part of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-381; 104 Stat. 576));

(4) State AIDS Drug Assistance Programs;

(5) the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(6) AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health and other agencies;

Whereas, since 1985, the now biennial International AIDS Conference has brought together leading scientists, public health experts, policymakers, community leaders, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS from around the world to enhance the global response to HIV/AIDS, evaluate recent scientific developments, share knowledge, and facili-

tate a collective strategy to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

Whereas, in 2008, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918);

Whereas taxpayers in the United States have paid more than \$45,000,000,000 through PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which have enjoyed broad bipartisan support in Congress;

Whereas, 25 years after the III International AIDS Conference was held in Washington, D.C., the XIX International AIDS Conference (referred to in this preamble as “AIDS 2012”) will take place from July 22, 2012, through July 27, 2012, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas AIDS 2012, organized by the International AIDS Society, is expected to convene more than 20,000 delegates, including 2,000 journalists, from nearly 200 countries;

Whereas the theme of AIDS 2012, “Turning the Tide Together”, embodies the promise and urgency of utilizing recent scientific advances in HIV/AIDS treatment and biomedical prevention, continuing research for an HIV vaccine and cure, and increasing effective, evidence-based interventions in key settings to change the course of the HIV/AIDS crisis;

Whereas AIDS 2012 seeks to engage governments, non-governmental organizations, policymakers, the scientific community, the private sector, civil society, faith-based

organizations, the media, and people living with HIV/AIDS to more effectively address regional, national, and local responses to HIV/AIDS around the world and overcome barriers that limit access to preventative care, treatment, and other services; and

Whereas AIDS 2012 is a tremendous opportunity to strengthen the role of the United States in global HIV/AIDS initiatives within the context of significant global economic challenges, reenergize the response to the domestic epidemic, and focus particular attention on the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS that continues in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the XIX International AIDS Con-
3 ference and the goal of renewing awareness of, and
4 commitment to, addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis in
5 the United States and abroad;

6 (2) recognizes that continued HIV/AIDS re-
7 search, prevention, and treatment programs are cru-
8 cial to improving global health;

9 (3) understands that the key to overcoming
10 HIV/AIDS includes efforts to formulate sound pub-
11 lic health policy, protect human rights, address the
12 needs of women and girls, direct effective program-
13 ming toward the populations at the highest risk of
14 infection, ensure accountability, and combat stigma,
15 poverty, and other social challenges related to HIV/
16 AIDS;

1 (4) seeks to work with all stakeholders—

2 (A) to prevent the transmission of HIV;

3 (B) to increase access to testing, treat-
4 ment, and care;

5 (C) to improve health outcomes for all peo-
6 ple living with HIV/AIDS; and

7 (D) to foster greater scientific and pro-
8 grammatic collaborations around the world to
9 translate scientific advances and apply best
10 practices to international efforts to end HIV/
11 AIDS;

12 (5) commits to supporting a stronger global re-
13 sponse to HIV/AIDS, protecting the rights of people
14 living with HIV/AIDS, and working to create an
15 “AIDS-free generation”; and

16 (6) encourages the ongoing development in the
17 public and private sectors of innovative therapies
18 and advances in clinical treatment for HIV/AIDS,
19 including—

20 (A) new and improved biomedical and be-
21 havioral prevention strategies;

22 (B) safer and more affordable, accessible,
23 and effective treatment regimens for infected
24 individuals; and

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(C) research for an HIV vaccine and cure.

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