

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 104

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2013

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV
& AIDS Awareness Day.

Whereas, more than 30 years into the epidemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in the United States more than 1,100,000 people are living with HIV, and every year approximately 50,000 people acquire HIV;

Whereas 1 in 4 new HIV infections occurs among young people between the ages of 13 and 24, accounting for approximately 1,000 new cases every month;

Whereas 60 percent of HIV positive youth do not know that they carry the HIV virus;

Whereas there are approximately 76,400 young people living with HIV;

Whereas African-American youth bear a disproportionate burden of the epidemic, representing 60 percent of new infections in young people;

Whereas new HIV infections among 13- to 29-year-old African-American men who have sex with men increased 48 percent from 2006 to 2009;

Whereas the Division of Adolescent and School Health is the only Federal program supporting HIV prevention for adolescents in schools;

Whereas the largest Federal program dedicated to providing care and treatment for people living with HIV was named after Ryan White, a teenager from Indiana who helped educate the people of the United States about HIV and AIDS in the 1980s;

Whereas the Ryan White Part D Program is one of the national efforts to link HIV positive youth to medical care and support services;

Whereas the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18001 et seq.) includes many provisions that benefit young people and help achieve the goal of an AIDS-free generation, including funding for sex education to help ensure that every young person in the United States is educated about HIV/AIDS, a prohibition against denying people living with HIV access to health care, HIV testing for women without a co-pay, and expanded access to Medicaid which will help more HIV-positive youth receive care; and

Whereas April 10 of each year is now recognized as National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
2 Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day;

3 (2) encourages State and local governments, in-
4 cluding public health agencies, education agencies,
5 schools, and media organizations to recognize and
6 support such a day;

7 (3) promotes effective and comprehensive HIV
8 prevention education programs both in and out of
9 schools as a tool to ensure that all people in the
10 United States are educated about HIV, as called for
11 in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy;

12 (4) urges youth-friendly and accessible health
13 care services to better provide for the early identi-
14 fication of HIV through voluntary routine testing,
15 and to connect those in need to clinically and cul-
16 turally appropriate care and treatment as early as
17 possible;

18 (5) commends the work of AIDS service organi-
19 zations, community and faith-based organizations,
20 and school-based health centers that are providing
21 youth-friendly and effective prevention, treatment,
22 care, and support services to young people living
23 with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS;

24 (6) recognizes the importance of interventions
25 that address structural barriers faced by young peo-

1 ple to living healthy lives, including accessible health
2 care, safe and inclusive schools and communities,
3 family acceptance, secure housing, excellent edu-
4 cation, employment and legal protections, and pov-
5 erty reduction initiatives; and
6 (7) prioritizes youth leadership and develop-
7 ment in order to ensure the involvement of youths
8 in decisions that impact their health and well-being
9 and to provide the next generation of HIV/AIDS
10 doctors, advocates, educators, researchers, and other
11 professionals, as a necessary means to achieving an
12 AIDS-free generation.

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