

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 927

Commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2024

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS
Day.

Whereas, as of the end of 2023, an estimated 39,900,000 people were living with human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this preamble as “HIV”) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this preamble as “AIDS”), including 1,400,000 children;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 790,000 people with AIDS have died since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, including over 19,000 deaths among people with diagnosed HIV in 2022, with the disease disproportionately affecting communities of color;

Whereas, in 2022, over 37,000 people became newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, while all races and ethnicities are affected by HIV in the United States, communities of color are disproportionately impacted;

Whereas, in order to address the HIV epidemic in the United States, on August 18, 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101–381; 104 Stat. 576) (commonly referred to as the “Ryan White CARE Act”) to provide primary medical care and essential support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured;

Whereas the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides services and support for over half of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, to further focus attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998, the Minority AIDS Initiative was established to provide funds to State and local institutions and organizations to best serve the health care costs and support the needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV;

Whereas the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals established a global target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030;

Whereas, in order to further address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2003, Congress and the Administration of President George W. Bush, with bi-partisan support, created the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this preamble as “PEPFAR”), which, for more than 2 decades, has served as the primary policy instrument of the United States to address HIV/AIDS in the developing world;

Whereas the United States PEPFAR program remains the largest commitment in history by any country to combat a single disease;

Whereas 25,000,000 lives have been saved through PEPFAR;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2023, PEPFAR has supported treatment for more than 20,000,000 people, and has enabled 5,500,000 infants of mothers living with HIV to be born HIV-free;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2023, PEPFAR directly supported HIV testing and counseling for 71,100,000 people;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was launched in 2002, and, as of 2023, has helped provide antiretroviral therapy to approximately 25,000,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and to 695,000 pregnant women to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS to their children, saving an estimated 65,000,000 lives;

Whereas the United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and every \$1 contributed by the United States leverages an additional \$2 from other donors, as required by law;

Whereas considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including a nearly 40-percent reduction in new HIV infections, a 60-percent reduction in new HIV infections among children, and a 50-percent reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths between 2010 and 2023;

Whereas, approximately 30,700,000 people had access to antiretroviral therapy in 2023, compared to only 7,800,000 people who had access to such therapy in 2010;

Whereas research funded by the National Institutes of Health found that HIV treatment not only saves the lives of people living with HIV, but people living with HIV on effective antiretroviral therapy and who are durably virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit HIV, proving that HIV treatment is prevention;

Whereas it is estimated that, without treatment, half of all infants living with HIV will die before their second birthday;

Whereas, despite the remarkable progress in combating HIV, significant challenges remain;

Whereas there were approximately 1,300,000 new HIV infections in 2023 globally, structural barriers continue to make testing and treatment programs inaccessible to highly vulnerable populations, and an estimated 5,400,000 people living with HIV globally still do not know their HIV status;

Whereas children living with HIV are significantly less likely than adults to know their HIV status, and, as a result, are prevented from accessing life-saving treatment;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over 37,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2022, and 13 percent of the 1,200,000 people in the United States living with HIV are not aware of their HIV status;

Whereas men who have sex with men (referred to in this preamble as “MSM”), particularly young MSM of color, are the population most affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas southern States bear the greatest burden of HIV in the United States, accounting for 49 percent of new infections in 2022;

Whereas people living with HIV are frequently susceptible to other infections, such as hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis;

Whereas the opioid and heroin epidemics have led to increased numbers of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs, and the crisis has disproportionately affected nonurban areas, where HIV prevalence rates have been low historically and have limited services for HIV prevention and treatment and substance use disorder treatment;

Whereas December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as “World AIDS Day”; and

Whereas, in 2024, commemorations for World AIDS Day will recognize the essential role of community and collective action to sustain and accelerate HIV progress in the global HIV/AIDS response: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of World
3 AIDS Day, including the goal to achieve zero new
4 human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this
5 resolution as “HIV”) infections, zero discrimination,
6 and zero acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (re-
7 ferred to in this resolution as “AIDS”)-related
8 deaths;

9 (2) commends achievements in combating HIV/
10 AIDS through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS

1 Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101–381;
2 104 Stat. 576), the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treat-
3 ment Extension Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–87;
4 123 Stat. 2885), the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative,
5 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the
6 National Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse
7 and Mental Health Services Administration, the Of-
8 fice of Minority Health, and the Office of the Sec-
9 retary of Health and Human Services;

10 (3) commends achievements in combating HIV/
11 AIDS made by the President’s Emergency Plan for
12 AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tu-
13 berculosis and Malaria, and the Joint United Na-
14 tions Programme on HIV/AIDS;

15 (4) supports efforts to end the HIV epidemic in
16 the United States and around the world by 2030;

17 (5) supports continued funding for prevention,
18 care, and treatment services, and research programs
19 for communities impacted by HIV and people living
20 with HIV in the United States and globally;

21 (6) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free
22 generation is achievable, rapid action by all countries
23 toward further expansion and scale-up of testing and
24 antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts

1 to reduce growing disparities and improve access for
2 children to life-saving medications;

3 (7) encourages the scaling up of comprehensive
4 prevention services, including biomedical and struc-
5 tural interventions, to ensure inclusive access to pro-
6 grams and appropriate protections for all people at
7 risk of contracting HIV, especially in communities
8 disproportionately impacted;

9 (8) calls for greater focus on the HIV-related
10 vulnerabilities of women and girls, including women
11 and girls at risk for or who have survived violence
12 or faced discrimination as a result of the disease;

13 (9) supports continued leadership by the United
14 States in domestic, bilateral, multilateral, and pri-
15 vate sector efforts to fight HIV;

16 (10) encourages input from civil society in the
17 development and implementation of domestic and
18 global HIV policies and programs that guide the re-
19 sponse;

20 (11) encourages and supports greater degrees
21 of ownership and shared responsibility by developing
22 countries in order to ensure the sustainability of the
23 domestic responses to HIV/AIDS by those countries;
24 and

1 (12) urges other members of the international
2 community to sustain and scale up their support for
3 and financial contributions to efforts around the
4 world to combat HIV.

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