

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 329

Rep. Anthony offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare December 1, 2020 as HIV/AIDS Awareness
2 Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that
4 attacks the human immune system. While there is not yet a cure, the
5 disease can be controlled with early detection and medical care.
6 There are three stages of HIV: stage 1 HIV or acute HIV infection;
7 stage 2 or chronic HIV infection; and stage 3 or symptomatic HIV
8 infection, referred to as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
9 by the Centers for Disease Control; and

10 Whereas, World AIDS Day was first observed in 1988 through
11 partnership between the World Health Organization and the United
12 Nations as a means of raising awareness of the disease, encouraging
13 increased action to combat the disease, and rejecting HIV stigma.

1 Nationwide, approximately 1.2 million people are living with HIV.
2 In January of 2019, there were 16,306 Michiganders living with an
3 HIV infection and 8,305 living with stage 3 HIV infections; and

4 Whereas, Just as the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has continued to
5 shed light on racial disparities in our health care system, time
6 has shown that HIV has disproportionately impacted communities of
7 color, racial and ethnic minorities, and gay and bisexual men. In
8 2018, Blacks/African Americans accounted for 42% of HIV diagnoses
9 while representing only 13% of the population, with gay and
10 bisexual men in this category accounting for 25% of HIV diagnoses.
11 Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 27% of HIV diagnoses and 18% of the
12 population, with gay and bisexual men in this group making up about
13 20% of these diagnoses. HIV rates are also disproportionately high
14 among American Indian and Alaska Natives, Asians, and Native
15 Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

16 Whereas, In Michigan, Black men are disproportionately
17 impacted by HIV. In January 2019, Black Michigan residents
18 accounted for 56% of reported HIV infections, but only make up 14%
19 of the state population. In contrast, White Michigan residents are
20 relatively less likely to have a reported HIV infection. They make
21 up 34% of total reported HIV infections despite making up 75% of
22 the Michigan population; and

23 Whereas, While the widespread use of antiretroviral therapy
24 (ART) has improved the outlook for those living with HIV/AIDS over
25 time, it is estimated that one in seven people living with HIV are
26 unaware of their infection and need testing. The CDC estimates
27 approximately 50,000 new HIV infections occur each year, many of
28 which stem from individuals who do not know they are HIV-positive.
29 Increasing prevention and testing frequency will ensure everyone at

1 high risk for HIV infection is tested so they can receive the
2 treatment needed to avoid spreading the disease or contracting
3 AIDS. The MI Department of Health and Human Services HIV Community
4 Partnership and Prevention Unit works with a network of external
5 partners to offer education, testing, and treatment services to
6 individuals at risk of contracting HIV or developing AIDS; and

7 Whereas, This year especially we have seen how the COVID-19
8 virus has ravaged communities of color and low-income communities.
9 The United Nations has reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has
10 "widened the social and economic inequalities that increase the
11 vulnerability of marginalized groups." Federal and state efforts
12 to address racial equity in health outcomes include the MI
13 Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities, the Health Resources
14 and Services Administration's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, the US
15 Department of Health and Human Services' Minority HIV/AIDS Fund;
16 and

17 Whereas, As we reflect on the theme of World AIDS Day 2020,
18 this legislative body will take steps to embody the goals of
19 "global solidarity, shared responsibility." The state of Michigan
20 is committed to upholding health care as a human right and ensuring
21 everyone has equal access to care, no matter their race,
22 socioeconomic status, gender, or sexual orientation; therefore, be
23 it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
25 this legislative body declare December 1, 2020 as HIV/AIDS
26 Awareness Day in the state of Michigan. We urge all Michiganders to
27 do their part to end the negative stigma surrounding HIV, encourage
28 increased testing and access to treatment, and support those who
29 are living with the disease; and be it further

1 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
2 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the MI
3 Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities.