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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 94 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY WAXMAN, MAYES, MADDEN, GIRAL, CERRATO, BURGOS,  
HOHENSTEIN, VENKAT, SANCHEZ AND MALAGARI, MARCH 3, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 3, 2025

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 28, 2025, as "HIV is Not a Crime Awareness  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a chronic  
4 illness that can be effectively managed with antiretroviral  
5 therapy, and the science around HIV treatment and prevention has  
6 progressed significantly in the four decades since the early  
7 days of the epidemic; and

8 WHEREAS, We now possess effective mechanisms to prevent the  
9 transmission of HIV, including barrier protection, such as  
10 condoms, pre-exposure prophylaxis and post-exposure prophylaxis;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, It has been recognized by national and international  
13 public health authorities that HIV treatment is also HIV  
14 prevention, since individuals living with HIV who are receiving  
15 antiretroviral therapy and have an undetectable viral load,  
16 which is less than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood,  
17 cannot transmit HIV through sexual contact; and

18 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians living with HIV have been charged

1 with crimes for conduct that would not be criminal or would be  
2 less severe but for their HIV status, a phenomenon known as HIV  
3 criminalization; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians living with HIV may fear prosecution  
5 or be threatened with prosecution, especially in cases of  
6 intimate partner abuse; and

7 WHEREAS, HIV criminalization increases stigma against  
8 individuals living with HIV and, according to the United States  
9 Department of Health and Human Services 2019 Plan for Ending the  
10 HIV Epidemic, stigma "can be a debilitating barrier preventing  
11 people living with, or at risk for, HIV from receiving the  
12 health care, services, and respect they need and deserve"; and

13 WHEREAS, HIV criminalization laws have been  
14 disproportionately used to prosecute people of color, women, sex  
15 workers, the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups; and

16 WHEREAS, Misperceptions about HIV transmission, treatment and  
17 prevention, as well as HIV criminalization and its impact on  
18 individuals living with HIV are common; and

19 WHEREAS, It is vitally important for all elected officials in  
20 this Commonwealth to consider updating or repealing outdated  
21 laws and practices regarding HIV criminalization and to  
22 encourage every Pennsylvanian to educate themselves about HIV  
23 and HIV criminalization; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
25 February 28, 2025, as "HIV is Not a Crime Awareness Day" in  
26 Pennsylvania.