

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 381

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Latino AIDS Awareness Day”
on October 15, 2013, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2013

Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Latino AIDS Awareness Day” on October 15, 2013, and for other purposes.

Whereas Hispanics and Latinos are the Nation’s largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in the United States and according to the Census Bureau (2013) the Latino population in 2013 was 53,000,000, making up 17 percent of the United States population;

Whereas in 2010, Latinos represented approximately 16 percent of the United States population, but accounted for 21 percent (10,731) of new HIV infections and 19 percent (165,159) of people living with HIV infection;

Whereas in 2010, Latinos also accounted for 21 percent of new AIDS diagnoses in 2011 (AIDS being the most advanced form of HIV disease);

Whereas in 2010, the rate of new HIV infections per 100,000 Latino adults and adolescents was the second highest of any racial or ethnic group, over 3 times that of Whites, but less than half that of Blacks;

Whereas in 2010, Latinos accounted for nearly 1 in 5 deaths or 18 percent (3,513) among people with an HIV diagnosis;

Whereas in 2010, Latinas accounted for 15 percent (1,400) of new HIV infections, and their HIV incidence rate was more than 4 times the rate for White women;

Whereas in 2011, 63 percent of Latinos ages 18 and older have never been tested for HIV;

Whereas among those who are HIV positive, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 36 percent of Latinos were tested for HIV late in their illness, by comparison 31 percent of Blacks and 32 percent of Whites were tested late;

Whereas a number of challenges contribute to the epidemic in Latino communities, including poverty, injection drug use, homophobia stigma and discrimination, limited access to health care, and language or cultural barriers in health care settings; and

Whereas more than 96,200 Latinos with an AIDS diagnosis have died since the epidemic began, including 2,370 in 2010: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) supports the goals and ideals of “National
2 Latino AIDS Awareness Day”;

3 (2) salutes more than 165,159 Latino AIDS
4 survivors in the United States and the efforts of in-
5 dividuals living with HIV/AIDS, volunteers, and pro-
6 fessionals who combat AIDS each day;

7 (3) encourages State and local governments, in-
8 cluding public health agencies and media organiza-
9 tions, to recognize and support “National Latino
10 AIDS Awareness Day”, publicize its importance
11 among communities, and encourage individuals, es-
12 pecially Latinos, to get tested for HIV;

13 (4) commends the work of AIDS service organi-
14 zations and community and faith-based organiza-
15 tions that are providing effective, evidence-based,
16 prevention, treatment, care, and support services to
17 people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS;

18 (5) supports the implementation of the National
19 HIV/AIDS Strategy and its goals to reduce new
20 HIV infections, increase access to care and improve
21 health outcomes for people living with HIV, reduce
22 HIV-related disparities and health inequities, and
23 achieve a more coordinated national response to the
24 HIV/AIDS epidemic;

1 (6) supports effective and comprehensive HIV
2 prevention education programs to promote the early
3 identification of HIV through voluntary routine test-
4 ing, and to connect those in need to clinically and
5 culturally appropriate care and treatment;

6 (7) supports appropriate funding of HIV/AIDS
7 prevention, care, treatment, research, and housing,
8 including community-based approaches to fight stig-
9 ma, discrimination, and homophobia; and

10 (8) encourages a comprehensive prevention and
11 treatment strategy that empowers public health
12 workers, educators, faith leaders, community-based
13 organizations, and other stakeholders to engage
14 their communities to help decrease violence, dis-
15 crimination, and stigma towards individuals who dis-
16 close their sexual orientation or HIV status, and
17 normalize voluntary testing practices.

○