



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 20-5640, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING DECEMBER 1ST AS WORLD AIDS DAY IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, launched in 1988, World AIDS Day takes place on December 1st each year, and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away, and that there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education; and

WHEREAS, this government recognizes the LGBTQ community's efforts for recognition by government leaders of the devastation and stigma caused by this disease within their community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, more than 40,000 people in Illinois live with HIV or AIDS and more than half of those individuals reside in Chicago, and in 2018, there were 25,198 people living with HIV in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, this year's timely theme for World AIDS Day is "Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience & Impact"; and

WHEREAS, Getting to Zero Illinois is a state-wide initiative to end the HIV epidemic in the state by 2030, a goal shared by Cook County Government and Cook County Health, which is one of the largest providers of HIV/AIDS care in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, CCH's Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center cares for and treats more than 10,000 patients annually with HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, offering a wide array of primary and specialty care, education and social support service, regardless of ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, just as we've seen how health care disparities and the social determinants of health among minority communities has lead to adverse outcomes during the Covid-19 pandemic, the disproportionate impact of HIV on racial and ethnic minorities has been predictably similar, with the CDC reporting that in 2018, of 37,968 total HIV diagnoses in the U.S. and 6 Dependent Areas: Blacks/African Americans accounted for 42% (16,055) of HIV diagnoses and 13% of the population and Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 27% (10,255) of HIV diagnoses and 18% of the population; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Minority HIV/AIDS Fund is transforming HIV prevention, care, and treatment for communities of color by bringing federal, state, and community organizations together to design and test innovative solutions that address critical emerging needs and by working to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of federal investments in HIV programs and services for racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board will do everything in its power to support the Getting to Zero Initiative and achieve an HIV/AIDS-free generation in Cook County by 2030, and wishes to promote and raise awareness of World AIDS Day in Cook County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the more than 5.2 million residents of Cook County, do hereby take this opportunity to recognize World AIDS Day;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conjunction with World AIDS Day that December 1st, 2020 be hereby declared World AIDS Day in the County of Cook; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.