



HR0603

LRB101 15035 MST 64553 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health has
3 determined that African American and Latinx at-risk
4 populations are among the five demographics selected for
5 funding beginning early 2019 in support of Community
6 Development initiatives; it is imperative that the voices of
7 those most imminently affected by this crucial health issue be
8 heard before any funding is considered; and

9 WHEREAS, The most recent and available statistics place HIV
10 disease as one of the top five leading causes of death in
11 African American women between the ages of 35 to 44 and the
12 seventh ranking cause in African American women between the
13 ages of 20 to 34; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Chicago Department of Public
15 Health, this city's African Americans are afflicted with more
16 than half of the newly diagnosed HIV and AIDS cases;
17 non-Hispanic African Americans were the most frequently
18 diagnosed population, representing 58.5% of new HIV diagnoses,
19 56.4% of AIDS diagnoses, and 55.2% of late diagnoses; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2016, the highest rates of new individual HIV
21 infection diagnoses occurred in the predominantly African
22 American neighborhoods of Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood,

1 North Lawndale, Washington Park, and West Garfield Park; and

2 WHEREAS, It is imperative that action be taken to halt new
3 HIV infections among these demonstrably at-risk African
4 American men and women, which continue at an alarming rate that
5 exceeds 80% while new cases of infections among the
6 corresponding at-risk Caucasian demographic have dramatically
7 decreased to a current rate of less than 20%; and

8 WHEREAS, Hispanics/Latinos recently accounted for about
9 one quarter of all new diagnoses of HIV in the United States,
10 despite representing about 18% of the total U.S. population;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, More than 20% of people living with HIV in the
13 City of Chicago identify as Latinx, with the highest risk and
14 most marginalized subpopulations (injection drug users, sexual
15 and gender minorities, etc.) exclusively depending on
16 indigenous-led and staffed organizations for services; and

17 WHEREAS, Young men ages 20 to 29, especially Black and
18 Latino men who have sexual contact with men, also continue to
19 make up the majority of new diagnoses, while transgender women,
20 particularly those of color, also are disproportionately
21 affected; the City of Chicago stated that these populations, as
22 well as Chicagoans in some southern, western, and northern

1 community areas, continue to be "priority populations" for HIV
2 prevention efforts; and

3 WHEREAS, Gay and bisexual men accounted for 85% (7,271) of
4 the HIV diagnoses among Hispanic/Latino men in 2015, with
5 indigenous-led organizations on the South and West sides of
6 Chicago leading efforts for outreach and engagement with the
7 highest risk individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, According to reporting by the Chicago Department
9 of Public Health in 2016, gay, bisexual, and other men who have
10 sex with men, particularly Latino men, bear a disproportionate
11 burden of HIV; and

12 WHEREAS, Significant gaps in knowledge exist concerning
13 HIV incidence and prevalence in the Latinx community,
14 especially given the influx of evacuees into the city from
15 Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we call upon the Director of the Illinois Department of Public
19 Health to expeditiously participate in legislative public
20 hearings, as well as hearings within the communities so
21 affected, in order to provide expert and public testimony
22 concerning the amelioration of this disturbing and reversible

1 public health threat; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge additional appropriations in State
3 funding, along with any available federal dollars, to provide
4 necessary preventative diagnostic and treatment services to
5 mitigate the harmful effects of HIV among at-risk African
6 American and Latinx populations; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 delivered to the Director of the Illinois Department of Public
9 Health.