

1 HJR183
2 191483-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 13-FEB-18

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8 RECOGNIZING ALABAMA HIV AWARENESS DAY.

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10 WHEREAS, throughout the United States there are an
11 estimated 1.1 million Americans living with HIV with Southern
12 states accounting for half of new HIV diagnoses; and

13 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has 14,042 citizens
14 currently living with HIV and another 2,340 who may be living
15 with HIV and not know it; and

16 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has the 15th highest
17 new HIV diagnosis rate in the nation and the ninth highest
18 AIDS-related death rate in the nation; and

19 WHEREAS, certain groups such as gay and bisexual
20 men, transgender people, youth, African-Americans, and Latino
21 Americans, and people living in the Southern United States are
22 disproportionately affected by HIV; and

23 WHEREAS, HIV continues to be a very stigmatized
24 disease that creates barriers to HIV prevention and treatment;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, community involvement in promoting HIV
2 testing and education is crucial in our efforts to stem the
3 rise of HIV transmissions; and

4 WHEREAS, we must encourage treatment as prevention
5 efforts, expand access to Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP),
6 strengthen the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and
7 establish harm-reducing syringe exchange programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Alabama AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs),
9 state legislators, local and state health officials, networks
10 of people living with HIV, and allies are committed to ending
11 the epidemic in the State of Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, Alabama HIV Awareness Day offers an
13 opportunity to combat HIV stigma and discrimination while
14 communicating important prevention education about the
15 epidemic; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That March 7, 2018, is recognized
18 as Alabama HIV Awareness Day and encourages all Alabamians to
19 increase their awareness and understanding of HIV, participate
20 in prevention efforts, and offer compassion and support to
21 those people impacted by the disease.