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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative Moeller

1 TO THE HONORABLE JAY INSLEE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,  
2 THE SECRETARY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE  
3 MEMBERS OF THE STATE HIV PLANNING STEERING GROUP:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
6 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, Washington state took bold action on the AIDS epidemic  
8 in the 1980s, dedicating resources to educate the public about HIV,  
9 preventing the spread of the disease, and care for the individuals  
10 who were infected; and

11 WHEREAS, These resources have been invested wisely, focusing on  
12 those areas of the state with the most disease and on interventions  
13 that are on the front edge of prevention science and most likely to  
14 interrupt the spread of disease, resulting in decreases in new HIV  
15 infections, new AIDS cases, and deaths in people with HIV; and

16 WHEREAS, People living with HIV/AIDS have historically faced, and  
17 many continue to face, deep and pervasive stigma and discrimination  
18 due to their health status not only in accessing affordable physical  
19 and behavioral health care, but in social supports and in  
20 discriminatory treatment in our criminal justice system; and

21 WHEREAS, Washington state is again in a position to take bold  
22 action and be a national leader in ending AIDS; and medical providers  
23 public health experts, and community and legal advocates are poised

1 to work with other partners across sectors and agencies to drive  
2 infection rates to the lowest in the country; and

3 WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee issued a proclamation on December 1,  
4 2014, to end AIDS in Washington state with the goal of reducing the  
5 rate of new HIV diagnoses by fifty percent by 2020 and reducing  
6 disparities in health outcomes reaffirming the state's unwavering  
7 commitment to individuals living and at risk of HIV/AIDS;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
9 Governor recognize and accept the support of the legislature as to  
10 the effort to end AIDS in Washington state by empowering the state  
11 HIV planning steering group to lead a robust task force to put  
12 forward recommendations to achieve the goal of reducing new HIV  
13 diagnoses, reducing health disparities, removing obstacles to  
14 accessing social supports, and removing legal discrimination based on  
15 health status from state laws.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
17 transmitted to the Honorable Jay Inslee, governor of the state of  
18 Washington, the secretary of the Washington state department of  
19 health, and each member of the state HIV planning steering group.

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