

## As Introduced

129th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2011-2012

H. C. R. No. 39

Representative Antonio

Cosponsors: Representatives Ramos, Fedor, Foley, Driehaus, O'Brien,  
Celeste, Szollosi, Reece, Boyd, Garland, Celebrezze, Hagan, R., Fende,  
Gerberry, Ashford, Stinziano, Letson, Yuko

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### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize March 15, 2012, as "Women and HIV/AIDS  
Awareness Day." 1  
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#### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is increasingly a women's epidemic, both in 3  
the United States and globally; and 4

WHEREAS, An estimated twenty-five per cent of persons living 5  
with HIV in the United States are women and girls; and 6

WHEREAS, Women comprise nearly one quarter (twenty-three per 7  
cent) of persons who are newly infected with HIV; and 8

WHEREAS, Young women between the ages of thirteen and 9  
thirty-nine are at extremely high risk of HIV infection and are an 10  
increasing percentage of new HIV infections; and 11

WHEREAS, Women are more likely to face barriers in accessing 12  
HIV prevention, treatment, and care because of limitations on 13  
their decision-making power, lack of control over financial 14  
resources, restricted mobility, and child care responsibilities; 15  
and 16

WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic disparities are particularly 17  
pronounced among women living with HIV/AIDS, with African American 18  
and Latina women disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS; and 19

WHEREAS, Women in the United States with HIV are less likely 20  
to receive combination therapy and have less access to treatment 21  
than men; and 22

WHEREAS, The most common methods of HIV transmission for 23  
women are heterosexual contact and injection drug use; and 24

WHEREAS, Women have a far greater risk of contracting HIV 25  
from men during sex than men do from women because of biological 26  
determinants; and 27

WHEREAS, Women are at higher risk of experiencing intimate 28  
partner violence, including rape, battering, and forced 29  
unprotected sex, which puts them at higher risk of becoming 30  
infected with HIV; and 31

WHEREAS, Women whose partners rape or batter them often have 32  
limited access to legal remedies--even when laws exist that make 33  
battering a crime--because of fear or coercion; and 34

WHEREAS, For many women, negotiating or demanding condom use 35  
is a virtual impossibility; and 36

WHEREAS, Such factors as poverty and economic disparities 37  
between women and men increase women's vulnerability; and 38

WHEREAS, Such factors as violence, inequality, racial and 39  
sexual biases, and discriminatory laws directly contribute to 40  
health disparities and an increased vulnerability to HIV for 41  
women; and 42

WHEREAS, Most Americans feel there has not been enough action 43  
on HIV from a variety of groups and institutions including the 44  
United States Congress; state and local governments; the media; 45  
corporate, religious, and community leaders; and pharmaceutical 46

companies; now therefore be it 47

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 129th General Assembly 48  
of the State of Ohio, recognize March 15, 2012, as "Women and 49  
HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" to encourage individuals, elected 50  
officials, and community-based organizations to take action to 51  
address the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls; and be it 52  
further 53

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 54  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the news 55  
media of Ohio. 56