

Legislation Text

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Calling on City Council Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development and the Homeless and the Committee on Health & Human Services to hold joint public hearings to bring attention to the AIDS epidemic in Philadelphia and to examine possible solutions to this crisis.

WHEREAS, June 2005 will be the 11th annual AIDS Education Month in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, AIDS Education Month 2005 will culminate in the Philadelphia Freedom Concert on July 4th featuring Sir Elton John; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Freedom Concert will be an unprecedented opportunity to bring information about HIV/AIDS to the citizens of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, There are over 44 million people living with HIV worldwide; and

WHEREAS, There are nearly 1 million people living with HIV in the United States; and

WHEREAS, There are over 20,000 people living with HIV in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Improvements in medical treatment have meant that people are living with HIV, rather than dying from HIV; and

WHEREAS, These improvements in medical treatment mean that people living with HIV have need of medical care and services; and

WHEREAS, Many people living with HIV in Philadelphia lack access to adequate medical care and social services; and

WHEREAS, Many people living with HIV in Philadelphia lack access to adequate housing; and

WHEREAS, 7% of those tested in the Philadelphia Prison System test positive for HIV; and

WHEREAS, Social issues such as substance abuse, mental illness, homelessness, and stigma affecting men who have sex with men further complicate the lives of people living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, The City lacks resources to provide compassionate care to all those living with HIV who need it; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the City Council Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development and the Homeless and the Committee on Health & Human Services is authorized to hold joint public hearings to bring attention to the AIDS epidemic in Philadelphia and to examine possible solutions to this crisis.