



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, more than 200,000 New Yorkers have been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 132,000 individuals are currently living with HIV/AIDS in New York State alone; and

Whereas, New York State is a leader in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and remains steadfast in its commitment to eradicating the virus, taking bold and unprecedented measures by implementing a three-point plan to decrease new HIV infections statewide to the point where the number of people living with HIV is reduced for the first time since the virus was identified; the "Bending the Curve" program will further efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the state by identifying persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to health care; linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission; and, providing access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV negative; and

Whereas, HIV/AIDS continues to affect every community, and the prevention of HIV infection remains the only cure for AIDS; HIV infection is on the rise among young people and disproportionately affects people of color, and the number of older New Yorkers living with HIV is also increasing, with this trend expected to continue in the coming years; and

Whereas, New York State has some of the strongest confidentiality protections in place for people living with HIV/AIDS in the nation, and individuals who wish to get tested to learn their HIV/AIDS status are encouraged to do so; and

Whereas, New York State can build on the success of virtually eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV; HIV testing is especially important for pregnant women, because medicine is available that can reduce the risk of mother-to-child HIV transmission; and

Whereas, many have dedicated themselves to the cause of ending HIV/AIDS and to caring for those with the virus and, we recognize those individuals and not-for profit organizations that tend to the needs of people with AIDS, support ongoing research, and help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS through education, awareness, and community outreach; and

Whereas, it is important for New Yorkers to get involved in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and to show compassion for, and lend support to, those affected by HIV/AIDS; all New Yorkers are encouraged to increase communication, education, and awareness of HIV/AIDS to help stop further spread of this disease and end the epidemic in New York State by 2020 – the ultimate goal of New York State's Plan to End AIDS; and

Whereas, World AIDS Day is an opportunity to remember those who have died from AIDS and those who courageously continue to battle this disease, and to recognize individuals dedicated to providing care for those with HIV/AIDS; New York stands with communities across the nation and throughout the world in recognizing the need to promote testing and early treatment, and to expand and strengthen the overall global effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize December 1, 2014 as

WORLD AIDS DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth
day of November in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor