

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 39—Assemblymen Parks, Anderson, Angle, Arberry, Bache, Beers, Berman, Brower, Buckley, Carpenter, Cegavske, Chowning, Claborn, Collins, de Braga, Dini, Evans, Freeman, Gibbons, Giunchigliani, Goldwater, Gustavson, Hettrick, Humke, Koivisto, Lee, Leslie, Manendo, Marvel, McClain, Mortenson, Neighbors, Nolan, Ohrenschall, Parnell, Perkins, Price, Segerblom, Thomas, Tiffany, Von Tobel and Williams

Joint Sponsors: Senators Titus, Amodei, Care, Carlton, Coffin, Jacobsen, James, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O'Connell, O'Donnell, Porter, Raggio, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Designating March 24, 1999, as HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of Nevada.

WHEREAS, The residents of the State of Nevada are its most precious resource, and all Nevadans are an integral part of the communities of this state and make a valuable contribution to society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Nevada ranks 17th in the nation in reported cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); and

WHEREAS, Young persons under the age of 25 years represent one-half of all new infections from exposure to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The future of this state lies in its young residents, and the benefit of having young Nevadans continue in the work force with additional years of earning potential and other sociological contributions is incalculable; and

WHEREAS, Among persons between the ages of 25 and 44 years, HIV/AIDS is the second leading cause of death; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, there were 8,086 children under the age of 13 years infected; and

WHEREAS, Women now account for 16 percent of all cases of AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Female adolescents and young women under the age of 25 years are at an even higher risk for HIV infection; and

WHEREAS, At the end of 1997, Nevada had the highest incidence of AIDS in the western states for both men and women, even higher than the rate of incidence in California; and

WHEREAS, In 1997 and 1998, deaths in Nevada attributed to AIDS declined primarily because of the heroic efforts of scientists, health care professionals and persons living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Patients respond best to therapy early in the course of their HIV infection when they are still healthy and able to work; and

WHEREAS, Research related to AIDS has resulted in new treatments that are prolonging the lives of many Nevadans living with the disease, and although the cost of such drug therapy is high, these dollars are more than compensated for by shorter hospital stays and decreased outpatient care costs; and

WHEREAS, The AIDS epidemic is far from over, with new infections in Nevada every year, and in the absence of a cure or vaccine, education is the only defense against this disease; and

WHEREAS, The observance of HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to enhance tolerance, increase compassion and promote understanding of persons infected with HIV/AIDS while communicating information about the prevention of this epidemic; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby designate March 24, 1999, as HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature recognizes the debilitating effects of HIV/AIDS on the residents of Nevada and their families and supports the efforts of those local, state and community-based agencies that are endeavoring to reduce the occurrences of HIV/AIDS among Nevadans.

~