

RESOLUTION NO. 13-181

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA'S REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SPONSOR AND SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO STOP THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF SEQUESTRATION ON HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) AND CONTINUE FULLY FUNDING AND LEADING THE CHARGE TO REAUTHORIZE THE RYAN WHITE CARE ACT AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA).

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale recognizes that further sequestration will continue to adversely impact housing stability in Broward County for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their family members; and

WHEREAS, homelessness and unstable housing undermine HIV treatment and are strongly linked to inadequate HIV health care, high viral load, poor health status, avoidable hospitalizations and emergency room visits, and early death; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the Ryan White CARE Act is critical to reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Florida and to ensuring maximum access to lifesaving care to all people living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has severely affected the greater Fort Lauderdale area where one in every 104 residents of Broward County is HIV positive with a total of 27,549 HIV-positive residents reported through 2010, including 358 children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the number of newly reported AIDS cases in the area increased 14 percent in the first nine months of 2011 and the number of newly reported HIV cases rose 35 percent compared to the same period in 2010; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the southern Florida metropolitan area of Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties ranked highest in the United States for population-adjusted AIDS and HIV rates with a population- adjusted case rate of 37.2 per 100,000 population; and

WHEREAS, the rate of HIV infection in Fort Lauderdale and the rest of Broward County exceeds that of all other counties in Florida with 50.6 instances per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks second in the nation in HIV incidence with more than 5,700 new infections every year and Broward County remains with the second highest incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida receives less funding per person under the Ryan White CARE Act than states that have fewer people living with HIV/AIDS and fewer new HIV infections; and

WHEREAS, breakthrough scientific research has shown that people living with HIV/AIDS who adhere to their prescribed antiretroviral treatment are up to 96 percent noninfectious to others; and

WHEREAS, public health research has demonstrated that the key to reversing the HIV epidemic is to eliminate gaps in the "HIV care continuum" – the stages of HIV care ranging from knowledge of status to linkage and retention in care, and ultimately to rendering people with HIV noninfectious by keeping them adherent to treatment; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20 percent of the 1.2 million Americans with HIV/AIDS are still unidentified, only 40 percent are retained in care, and less than 30 percent have an undetectable viral load that renders them noninfectious to others; and


WHEREAS, the July 2013 presidential executive order establishing an "HIV Care Continuum Initiative" states that federal agencies must work to "prioritize addressing the continuum of HIV care, including accelerating efforts to increase HIV testing, services, and treatment along the continuum,"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, urges Florida's representatives and senators in the United States Congress to:

- 1) Stop the devastating impact of sequestration on Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA);
- 2) Continue fully funding and leading the charge to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act and HOPWA;
- 3) Ensure CARE Act funding is distributed more equitably to Florida and other states where the HIV epidemic is growing;
- 4) Ensure CARE Act funding increases provisions for HIV and STD testing, services to help patients adhere to their medication regimens, and linkage and retention services designed to keep people with HIV/AIDS in care; and
- 5) Ensure medical services are managed and coordinated for each recipient in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of the CARE Act.

ADOPTED this the 17th of September, 2013.



Mayor
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:

City Clerk
JONDA K. JOSEPH

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