SLS 23RS-2920 **ORIGINAL** 

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 187

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes June 26, 2023, as National HIV Testing Awareness Day in support of the efforts of the federal government in ending the HIV epidemic in the state of Louisiana.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To recognize June 26, 2023, as National HIV Testing Awareness Day and to support the
3	efforts of the federal government in ending the HIV epidemic in the state of
4	Louisiana.
5	WHEREAS, in 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched
6	the "Ending the HIV Epidemic" (EHE) initiative with the goal of reducing new Human
7	Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infections by 90% by 2030, through the four key pillars of
8	the EHE initiative: diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond; and
9	WHEREAS, many people may experience health literacy barriers due to social
10	determinants, and this lack of awareness may limit an individual's ability to recognize and
11	advocate for necessary medical care including treatment that is best suited for their health
12	needs, and engage in a shared decision-making approach with their providers; and
13	WHEREAS, disparities in diagnosis and health outcomes are driven by a broad range
14	of factors such as access to reliable testing resources and treatments which can positively
15	impact health outcomes by directing patients to appropriate care; and
16	WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved multiple
17	pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications that are extremely effective at preventing
18	individuals from acquiring HIV, as studies have shown a correlation between increased PrEP

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uptake and decreases in new HIV diagnoses in the U.S.; and

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WHEREAS, inequities in access to PrEP across populations vulnerable to HIV have led to increasing disparities in HIV incidence, transmission, and viral suppression, with a lower percentage of African American and Hispanics actively taking PrEP or discussing PrEP with a healthcare provider; and

WHEREAS, to support EHE efforts to expand access to HIV prevention therapies, all health care providers should be educated on the value of PrEP, and should be available to provide PrEP when an individual is ready for it; and

WHEREAS, states should prioritize access to PrEP, including new innovative modalities and enforcing Affordable Care Act requirements that U. S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) A or B rated services should be available to beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, states should support the under and uninsured populations through support of state and federally funded PrEP programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize June 26, 2023, as National HIV Testing Awareness Day, and does hereby recognize the importance of open access to all FDA-approved HIV medications and HIV-related health care services and treatments, including the crucial importance of testing and PrEP, the "Ending the HIV Epidemic" initiative, and improving health outcomes, reducing health disparities, reducing transmission of HIV, and encouraging state policymakers to implement policies to do the same.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Kathy Liberty.

DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

SR 187 Original

Duplessis

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