



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 839

Resolution urging the United States Congress to pass legislation that would to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to facilitating the development of microbicides for preventing transmission of HIV and other diseases.

By Council Members Mendez, Brewer, Fidler, James, Koppell, Liu and Mark-Viverito

Whereas, In the twenty five years following the first reported case of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), 40 million people worldwide are living with this incurable disease; and

Whereas, Over the previous decade, HIV/AIDS infections in women have grown to the point that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) now estimates that women account for half of new HIV infections worldwide; and

Whereas, Scientists are actively working to develop new methods of preventing HIV/AIDS infection; and

Whereas, Microbicides, which would give women a prevention tool that they can control, are one of the most promising new developments in this field; and

Whereas, Microbicides, both vaginal and rectal, are topical products in the form of a gel, cream, film, vaginal ring or suppository that will reduce the risk of transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases; and

Whereas, Microbicides have the potential to be an effective tool to prevent HIV; and

Whereas, Introduction of microbicides in 73 developing countries could, according to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, prevent 2.3 million HIV infections over three years; and

Whereas, Despite the fact that microbicides are moving into later stage clinical trials, the National

Institutes of Health (NIH) spends a mere two percent of its HIV/AIDS research budget on microbicide development; and

Whereas, There is a demonstrated need for increased federal funding and coordination of microbicide research efforts in order to speed the development of an effective microbicide that has the potential to save millions of lives; and

Whereas, In 2007, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois introduced S. 823, the Microbicide Development Act, and Congressman Jan Schakowsky of Illinois introduced a companion bill, H.R. 1420; and

Whereas, The Microbicide Development Act would create a dedicated microbicide research unit within NIAID, authorize funding increases for microbicide research, and require coordination between federal research agencies such as NIAID and NIH; and

Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 40,000 Americans will be infected with HIV in 2006, clearly demonstrating the need for new and more powerful protective measures against this deadly virus; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the United States Congress to pass legislation that would to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to facilitating the development of microbicides for preventing transmission of HIV and other diseases.

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