

## A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BLOOD SAFETY AND AWARENESS ON WORLD AIDS DAY 2009

- WHEREAS World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1<sup>st</sup>;
- WHEREAS The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988 to ensure renewed and continual constructive attention to the grave threat posed by both HIV-AIDS and the debilitating medical conditions, pain, suffering and social-familial-economic hardships associated with HIV infection;
- WHEREAS World AIDS Day provides governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations, and individuals with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic;
- WHEREAS In the United States, The Centers for Disease Control reports that there are more than 1 million people in the U. S. currently living with HIV infection, and more than 40,000 Americans become infected with HIV annually;
- WHEREAS Among the many groups and persons whose lives have been shattered by HIV, approximately ten-thousand people affected by bleeding disorders, specifically people with Hemophilia, who contracted HIV (as well as Hepatitis C and other viruses) as a result of tainted blood products prescribed for use during the 1980's and 1990's;
- WHEREAS Family members of infected persons with bleeding disorders contracted HIV from the infected persons who, at the time, were unaware of their seroconversion;
- WHEREAS Among the infected, no less than eight thousand have died;
- WHEREAS The prognosis is hopeful for people living with HIV and related infections, people with HIV and their families confront daily the fear of disease, pain and suffering associated with HIV, financial and social challenges accompanying HIV infection;
- WHEREAS The medical-pharmaceutical community and government regulators failed to exercise reasonable, responsible and appropriate diligence that likely would have profoundly mitigated if not forestalled the HIV epidemic inflicted on persons who received contaminated blood and blood products;
- WHEREAS Improved safety and monitoring of blood, blood products and other medications, patients with chronic illness must depend on safe, available medications to effectively respond to illness;
- WHEREAS It is appropriate to recognize those in the bleeding disorders community who must confront past and future co-morbidities associated with genetic and chronic illness.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT THIS BODY PROCLAIMS, DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 AS World AIDS DAY IN (Name of Jurisdiction), and marks this solemn occasion by identifying the need to address issues of blood safety and security at all levels of government.

Proclamation language originated via:

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