

CHAPTER 73**(SCR 76)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION encouraging the Governor and the Cabinet for Health Services to respond to and fund the needs of Kentuckians living with HIV and AIDS.

WHEREAS, Kentucky citizens face a terrible pandemic in the form of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1990s, progress was made in the treatment of AIDS patients with the development of medications that fought the most serious of symptoms and that delayed the onset of other serious opportunistic infections; and

WHEREAS, new medications help persons with HIV live longer without developing symptoms of full-blown AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the medications for treating HIV and AIDS are extremely expensive, and many people without health insurance are unable to purchase these medications without state assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky AIDS Drug Assistance Program (KADAP) is not adequately funded and has over 100 persons on a waiting list for drugs that could prolong life or delay the onset of life-threatening symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has developed a network of testing and counseling services to help persons obtain testing for HIV, receive counseling related to the results, and receive counseling on the availability of services for persons who test positive for the human immunodeficiency virus; and

WHEREAS, services are not consolidated in a manner that permits easy access or that maximizes efficiency; and

WHEREAS, only three full-service clinics exist in Kentucky that can provide counseling related to housing, transportation, employment, and medications, and that can provide necessary medical services; and

WHEREAS, the three clinics are located in Louisville (University of Louisville), Lexington (University of Kentucky), and Paducah (Heartland CARES), and these clinics are required to provide services to the majority of the AIDS clients in the state but are not reimbursed for many of the services because the patients frequently are uninsured;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

Section 1. The Cabinet for Health Services is encouraged to assist the development of a centers of excellence model of HIV and AIDS health care delivery that would permit patients to receive all medical care at a center or from family physicians who in turn could access the centers' resources when necessary.

Section 2. The Cabinet for Health Services is encouraged to provide an aggressive outreach program to build a statewide network of HIV and AIDS care providers.

Section 3. The Cabinet for Health Services is encouraged to consolidate HIV and AIDS counseling and testing services. Consolidation would create more efficiency within the cabinet and facilitate increased knowledge and expertise among designated counseling and testing staff.

Section 4. The Governor and the Cabinet for Health Services are encouraged to increase state support for the Kentucky AIDS Drug Assistance Program. Priority should be given to eliminating the waiting list currently facing many Kentuckians who need medications to sustain life.

Section 5. The Governor and the Cabinet for Health Services are encouraged to fully fund the activities of the HIV/AIDS Advisory Council, created by the 2000 General Assembly but not given sufficient funding to carry out its mandated responsibilities. Funding over the 2002-2004 biennial budget should allow for planning, administrative, and staff support and expenses for members to attend meetings.

Section 6. The Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Paul Patton, Capitol, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Marcia Morgan, Secretary, Cabinet for Health Services, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40621; and Ardis Hoven, M.D., Chair, HIV/AIDS Advisory Council, University of Kentucky Medical Center, Division of Infectious Diseases, Room MN672, Lexington, Kentucky 40536-0298.

Approved March 26, 2002