



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**  
News Release

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## Assemblymember Swanson's Measure Urging President And Congress To Address HIV/Aids Crisis In Minority Communities Passes Assembly With Bi-Partisan Support

**(Sacramento)** – A resolution that urges the President and Congress to direct more federal resources to combat the growing HIV/AIDS crisis in minority communities passed the Assembly today with a bi-partisan vote of 68 to 0. Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 17, authored by Assemblymember Sandré Swanson (D - Alameda), asks the federal government to take specific steps to address the health disparities related to HIV/AIDS.

"HIV/AIDS is having a devastating impact on minority communities in California and throughout the nation," Assemblymember Swanson stated. "AJR 17 is a small, yet important step towards reducing the high incidences of HIV/AIDS by directing additional funding to critical support services that help those living with the HIV/AIDS lead healthy lives."

The resolution urges the President of the United States, Congress, and the U. S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to take specific action to address the health disparities as they relate to HIV/AIDS funding.

Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that the HIV epidemic has been roughly stable since the late 1990's. However, the disease has become a health crisis for African Americans and Latinos in California, and an emerging epidemic for Asian Pacific Islanders as well. African Americans, for example, constitute 13 % of the U.S. population, yet account for 49% of new HIV/AIDS cases. In California, African Americans represent 6% of the population, yet have the highest per capita rate at 19.4% of HIV/AIDS cases. Latinos follow, accounting for 28% of HIV/AIDS cases in California.

"AJR 17 calls for a national response to a national epidemic" said Adriann McCall, a Program Director for Get Screened Oakland. "Increased funding for state and local programs is necessary to continue prevention and education programs, as well as HIV/AIDS treatment and care."

"The time to act is now. It is time for the Legislature to stand up for the Californians who are living with HIV/AIDS by asking the federal government to focus its resources on this growing domestic health crisis," Assemblymember Swanson concluded.

The resolution now advances to the Senate.

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