

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 2018-115

Proclaiming December 1, 2018, as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. More than 30 years ago, the first known cases of HIV/AIDS in the United States set off an epidemic characterized by fear, ignorance and stigma.
- B. The US World AIDS Day 2018 theme is **"Know Your Status."** Multnomah County supports this theme through our continued commitment to implement the National HIV/AIDS strategy in communities we serve. Multnomah County has much at stake – more than half of the people diagnosed with HIV in Oregon reside in our County.
- C. More than 1.1 million people in the US are living with HIV today, and 1 in 7 of them don't know it. Knowing and communicating one's HIV status is the most powerful tool we have available to prevent new infections and dismantle stigma. We are no longer only HIV positive, negative, or unknown. New status options include other proven prevention strategies such as achieving and maintaining viral suppression, or taking PrEP daily. There are several easily accessible HIV testing services throughout Multnomah County.
- D. With HIV treatment, people are living longer, healthier lives. People living with HIV who take daily HIV treatment, as prescribed, and maintain undetectable viral loads, have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to their partners. We must focus our efforts on increasing access to care and improving support services to help HIV positive Oregonians get and stay in care.
- E. Proven tools have helped maintain low levels of new HIV infection in Oregon. We support Oregonians at high risk of contracting HIV having access to a daily pill to prevent HIV, called PrEP.
- F. Multnomah County has provided and collaborated with community based organizations to provide comprehensive wrap around care for people living with HIV for almost 25 years. Medical and supportive services aim to increase viral suppression rates and improve overall quality of life. Our current Portland Metropolitan viral load suppression rate is 83 percent due to our collective efforts.
- G. However, we still have work to do. While annual HIV infections are declining, HIV affects specific populations disproportionately across our country---gay and bisexual men, Black and Latinx people of all genders, people who inject drugs, transgender women, and young people. We must focus our efforts to reduce HIV-related health disparities by addressing systemic oppression, stigma, and access to care and treatment.
- H. On World AIDS Day, we come together to remember those lives who have been lost to HIV/AIDS, to celebrate the many successes related to treating and preventing HIV, and to rededicate ourselves to the goal of ending new HIV infections and ensuring everyone living with HIV is healthy.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

- 1. Calls on all Oregonians to take the first steps towards an HIV-free generation – **Get Tested. Get PrEP. Get Treatment.** Oregon has a plan to **End HIV.** As a community, we have the tools and expertise to stop new infections. Please join us in our efforts: <https://www.endhivoregon.org/#partners>.
- 2. In light of the continued importance of public awareness of the HIV epidemic, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims December 1, 2018, as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this ²⁹th day of November, 2018.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Meieran, Commissioner, District 1