

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

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J1

2002 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Gladden, Rawlings, R. Baker, Benson, Branch, Bronrott, Burns, Cole, C. Davis, D. Davis, D'Amato, Dobson, Dypski, Frush, Fulton, Giannetti, Goldwater, Hammen, Harrison, Hecht, Howard, Kirk, Krysiak, Marriott, McHale, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Paige, Patterson, Phillips, Pitkin, Proctor, Sher, and Swain**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2002
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **The AIDS Epidemic in Africa**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the President and Congress of the United States of
4 America to advise pharmaceutical companies to take action to make available to
5 Africans infected with HIV and AIDS life saving drugs at low cost.

6 WHEREAS, Governor Glendening stated in his State of the State 2002
7 address "The anthrax attacks responsible for five deaths in the United States
8 generated a nationwide demand that pharmaceutical companies lower the cost of
9 antibiotics, yet there has been no global outcry or demands made on pharmaceutical
10 companies in response to the millions of Africans who have died as a result of AIDS";
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Africans account for 70% of the adults and 80% of the children
13 living with HIV in the world, and roughly 28.1 million adults and children with
14 HIV/AIDS live in Africa; and

15 WHEREAS, AIDS deaths in Africa totaled 2.3 million in 2001 while the global
16 total was 3 million, and the 21 countries with the highest rates of HIV prevalence are
17 located in Africa; and

18 WHEREAS, African countries have to confront the obstacles of providing
19 health care for the growing population with HIV/AIDS, preventing uninfected
20 Africans from becoming infected with HIV, and coping with the effects of millions of
21 AIDS deaths on the economy; and

22 WHEREAS, Because the African AIDS epidemic will impact the worldwide
23 economic, social, and political organizations, the rest of the world cannot afford to
24 ignore Africa's situation; now, therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State**
26 **of Maryland urges the President of the United States and the Congress of the United**
27 **States of America to advise pharmaceutical companies to take every conceivable**

1 action to make available to Africans infected with HIV and AIDS life saving drugs at
2 low cost to stem the tide of the AIDS epidemic; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
4 Legislative Services to the President of the United States; the Maryland
5 Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski,
6 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest,
7 Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer,
8 Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella, House Office
9 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening,
10 Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the
11 Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of
12 Delegates.