

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2003

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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