

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 398

Expressing the sense of the Senate on promoting initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 6, 2004

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on promoting initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine.

Whereas more than 20,000,000 people have died of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (hereinafter referred to as “AIDS”) between 1984 and 2004;

Whereas AIDS claimed the lives of more than 3,000,000 people in 2003, and nearly 8,500 people die each day from AIDS;

Whereas an estimated 40,000,000 people around the world are living with the human immunodeficiency virus (hereinafter referred to as “HIV”) or AIDS;

Whereas an estimated 14,000 people become infected with HIV every day;

Whereas there will be 45,000,000 new infections by 2010 and nearly 70,000,000 deaths by 2020;

Whereas an estimated 14,000,000 children have lost 1 or both parents to AIDS, and this number is expected to increase to 25,000,000 by 2010;

Whereas a child loses a parent to AIDS every 14 seconds;

Whereas more than 90 percent of the people infected with HIV live in the developing world;

Whereas more than 70 percent of the people infected with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas communities and countries are struggling with the devastating human and economic toll that HIV and AIDS has taken on them;

Whereas the HIV/AIDS pandemic threatens political and regional stability and has contributed to broader economic and social problems, including food insecurity, labor shortages, and the orphaning of generations of children;

Whereas the United States is leading global efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic through its \$15,000,000,000 Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and its commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

Whereas, through the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the international community is cooperating multilaterally to combat HIV/AIDS;

Whereas developing an HIV vaccine is especially challenging due to the complicated nature of the virus;

Whereas many biotechnology companies have not invested in the development of HIV vaccines;

Whereas during 2001–2002, only 7 HIV vaccine candidates entered clinical trials, and only 1 of those candidates entered advanced human testing, but it proved ineffective;

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) has been a very effective and positive force in the development of an HIV vaccine and has been instrumental in laying the groundwork for developing an HIV vaccine;

Whereas the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and other public and private organizations are pursuing a variety of initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine, including establishing BIO Ventures for Global Health to help small biotechnology companies address the problems they confront in developing new medical products for poor countries;

Whereas the members of the Group of Eight (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) met in Sea Island, Georgia in June 2004 and reaffirmed their commitment to combat the global HIV/AIDS pandemic by accelerating and coordinating efforts to develop an HIV vaccine;

Whereas at the meeting in Sea Island, Georgia, the President encouraged the Group of Eight to endorse the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, a virtual consortium to accelerate HIV vaccine development by enhancing coordination, information sharing, and collaboration globally;

Whereas the United States currently has an HIV vaccine research and development center at the National Institutes of Health, and the President announced plans to estab-

lish a second HIV vaccine research and development center in the United States; and

Whereas an HIV vaccine has the potential to prevent new HIV and AIDS cases, which would save millions of lives and dramatically reduce the negative economic consequences of HIV and AIDS; Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*,

2 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT**
3 **OF AN HIV VACCINE.**

4 It is the sense of the Senate that—

5 (1) the President should seek to build on the
6 initiative of the members of the Group of Eight
7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia,
8 the United Kingdom, and the United States) to de-
9 velop a vaccine to curtail the spread of the human
10 immunodeficiency virus (hereinafter referred to as
11 “HIV”) and should mobilize necessary economic and
12 scientific support to establish a Global HIV Vaccine
13 Enterprise, as described in section 2;

14 (2) the President should continue to urge the
15 members of the Group of Eight and other countries
16 to garner support from their own economic, sci-
17 entific, and philanthropic communities for the devel-
18 opment of an HIV vaccine;

4 (4) the members of the Group of Eight should
5 follow-up the June 2004 meeting in Sea Island,
6 Georgia with official and private meetings, con-
7 ferences, and other events to further explore and im-
8 plement initiatives concerning the Global HIV Vac-
9 cine Enterprise;

10 (5) the members of the Group of Eight should
11 leverage financial contributions from the interna-
12 tional philanthropic community to provide fund-
13 ing, including funding to the private sector, to pro-
14 mote the development of an HIV vaccine;

20 (7) the members of the Group of Eight should
21 develop a specific plan for furthering its efforts to-
22 wards this goal by the June 2005 meeting in the
23 United Kingdom.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL HIV VACCINE ENTER-**2 **PRISE.**

3 The Senate urges the President to continue the ef-
4 forts of the United States to generate global support for
5 the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise by
6 carrying out an initiative that—

7 (1) is in coordination and partnership with the
8 members of the Group of Eight, the private sector,
9 and other countries, especially those most affected
10 by the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

11 (2) encourages the members of the Group of
12 Eight to act swiftly to mobilize money and resources
13 to make the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine
14 Enterprise a reality;

15 (3) includes a strategic plan to prioritize the
16 scientific and other challenges to be addressed, to
17 coordinate research and product development efforts,
18 and to encourage greater use of information-sharing
19 networks and technologies;

20 (4) encourages the establishment of a number
21 of coordinated global HIV vaccine development cen-
22 ters that would have the critical mass and scientific
23 expertise necessary to advance the development of
24 an HIV vaccine; and

25 (5) increases cooperation, communication, and
26 sharing of information on issues related to HIV and

1 AIDS among regulatory authorities in various coun-
2 tries.

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