

Editorials Opinion Pieces Respond To World AIDS Day

Although the HIV/AIDS pandemic "may be leveling off," the number of cases in the U.S. "remains stubbornly constant," yet federal spending for the "home-front battle has dropped in recent years," a Sun editorial says. It adds that there is a "need for greater financial resources" in the U.S., where the battle must be waged "more fiercely than ever" (Baltimore Sun, 11/30).

As modern medicine prolongs the useful lives" of people living with HIV/AIDS, the number of people living with the disease "worldwide will probably continue to rise in the near future," a Post and Courier editorial says. It adds, "This is no time to let up on the anti-AIDS public health efforts that appear, at last, to be having a positive effect" (Charleston Post and Courier, 11/28).

Decades into the AIDS plague, the answers are ready if the will can be found," a Chronicle editorial says, adding that, "Education and prevention -- including wider testing -- should be adopted to catch infection early." According to the editorial, a "ban on federal money for needle exchange programs should be lifted." Dec. 1 "marks the 20th World AIDS Day, one of those calendar markings that sounds contrived," the editorial says, adding, "But with the deadly -- and avoidable -- numbers heading in new directions, it's a moment to mark. The fight is nowhere near over" (San Francisco Chronicle, 11/30).

Some "ambitious programs" in Zambia to provide HIV/AIDS care and support "have been set in motion, and it is from this background that renewed hope has been given," a Times editorial says. It adds that World AIDS Day should "be an opportunity for all to reflect" on how to strengthen these programs for a "more effective fight" against HIV/AIDS (Times of Zambia, 11/29).

Post opinion piece. Young people "possess a voice that reaches where no other ... voice can reach," the authors write, adding that there needs to be a "committed resolution to today's youth so that they -- as a collective population -- can kindle the kind of strength needed to challenge, to subdue and then to minimize the spread" of HIV (Gordon/Gordon, Jakarta Post, 11/28).

President Elias and Richardson, director of PATH's TB program, write in a Post-Intelligencer opinion piece. Despite the "well-known and deadly synergy between the two epidemics, the world is still doing much too little to address the complicated issues of the intertwining diseases," and "that needs to change," the authors write (Elias/Richardson, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 11/29).

About the Author

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