

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** World AIDS Day has been observed annually since 1988 to raise awareness about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), to advocate for critical research, prevention, and care services, to combat stigma, and to remember those who have been lost to this disease; and

**Whereas** There are an estimated 37.5 million people globally, 1.2 million nationally and 27,000 residents of the Commonwealth living with HIV/AIDS; and

**Whereas** Recent advances in the science of HIV care and prevention have led to the prospect of a future world without AIDS; and

**Whereas** Targeted investment in care and prevention services for people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS has resulted in a more than 50% decrease in new HIV infections in Massachusetts over the last 10 years; and

**Whereas** Many organizations, institutions, and individuals, throughout the Commonwealth work tirelessly to build and maintain a strong, effective infrastructure of HIV prevention and care services to reach and serve vulnerable populations; and

**Whereas** It is appropriate that the citizens of the Commonwealth recognize World AIDS Day as an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary advancements that have been made and recognize the magnitude of the work yet to be done in the fight against HIV/AIDS,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 to be

## WORLD AIDS DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of December, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts