



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the citizens of the Empire State value their health and the health of their families and fellow New Yorkers, and toward that end, support observances that increase communication, education, and awareness of public health issues such as HIV/AIDS, so as to help stop further spread of this disease; and

**Whereas**, in New York State, more than 180,000 New Yorkers have been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 119,000 individuals are currently living with HIV/AIDS in New York State alone; and

**Whereas**, tragically, HIV infection is on the rise among young people and women in New York State, and also disproportionately affects people of color, therefore, it is important for all New Yorkers to do their part to reduce the spread of HIV and to lend support for those affected with HIV/AIDS; and

**Whereas**, nationwide, New York State has some of the strongest confidentiality protections in place for people with HIV/AIDS, and individuals who wish to get tested to learn their HIV/AIDS status are encouraged to do so; and

**Whereas**, HIV testing is especially important for pregnant women, because medicine is available that can reduce the risk of maternal/child HIV transmission, and mothers who know they are HIV positive are also advised against breast-feeding, in order to decrease the possibility of transmitting the infection to her child; and

**Whereas**, we stand with communities across the Nation and throughout the world in recognizing the need to expand and strengthen the global effort to stop the spread of this horrible disease and to promote testing and early treatment, as the benefits are numerous and may help individuals stay healthier for longer; and

**Whereas**, HIV/AIDS continues to affect every community and, as prevention of HIV infection remains our only cure for AIDS, the focus of this year's World AIDS Day is on making a community-wide commitment to prevent more cases of HIV infection, and we take this opportunity to remember those who have died from AIDS and those currently battling the disease, also recognizing those compassionate healthcare employees who provide care to AIDS sufferers and a highly dedicated medical community that continues research to discover new treatments and possible cures for HIV/AIDS;

**Now, Therefore**, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2009 as

## WORLD AIDS DAY

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighteenth day of November in the year two thousand nine.

*David A. Paterson*

Governor

*Thomas Schwabz*  
Secretary to the Governor