



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

WORLD AIDS DAY

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day started on December 1, 1988, with the goal of raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice, and improving education about HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day continues to be important as a way to celebrate the extraordinary advances we have made in the battle against HIV and AIDS, remember those we have lost to this devastating disease, and to remind Florida residents that HIV has not gone away and there is still work to be done; and

WHEREAS, worldwide, there are 37.5 million people living with HIV including over 2 million children. Though the death rate from this disease is slowly declining, millions have died from this disease; and

WHEREAS, nationally, there are an estimated 1.1 million Americans living with HIV, and yet one out of five don't know it; and

WHEREAS, Florida has the 3rd highest rate of HIV infections in the nation, with an estimated 135,000 Floridians living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, expanded access to HIV testing, diagnosis and treatment can help reduce transmission and prevent further suffering from this entirely preventable disease; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health recommends that Floridians talk to their health care provider about getting tested for HIV.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing December 1, 2011 as World AIDS Day.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 30th day of November, in the year two thousand eleven.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Governor