

By Senator Sobel

31-01897A-10

20102382

Senate Resolution

A resolution condemning any law, rule, or policy that punishes any person based on sexual orientation or HIV/AIDS status.

WHEREAS, a bill introduced on October 14, 2009, by a member of Parliament in Uganda would expand penalties for homosexuality to include the death penalty and requires citizens of Uganda to report information about homosexuality to the police or face imprisonment, and

WHEREAS, many countries criminalize homosexuality, and in some countries, such as Iran, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan, the penalty for homosexuality includes the death penalty, and

WHEREAS, the United States, in seeking to promote the core American principles of equality and "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness," has long championed the universality of human rights, and

WHEREAS, religious leaders in the United States, along with representatives from the Vatican and the Anglican Church, have stated that laws criminalizing homosexuality are unjust, and

WHEREAS, the people and Government of the United States recognize that such laws undermine this country's commitment in globally combating the human immunodeficiency virus infection or acquired immune deficiency syndrome by stigmatizing and criminalizing vulnerable communities, and

WHEREAS, no human being should be punished or targeted for assault, intimidation, or harassment of any kind based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or having the human immunodeficiency virus infection or the acquired immune

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30 deficiency syndrome, NOW, THEREFORE,

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32 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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34 That the Florida Senate condemns any legislation, law,
35 rule, or policy that calls for the punishment, including, but
36 not limited to, life imprisonment or the death sentence, of any
37 human being who is, or is perceived to be, homosexual, bisexual,
38 or transgender, or who has acquired immune deficiency syndrome,
39 the antibody or antigen to human immunodeficiency virus, or the
40 human immunodeficiency virus infection.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
42 forwarded to the President of the United States, the President
43 of the Senate of the United States, and the Speaker of the House
44 of Representatives of the United States, and the Ugandan
45 Parliament.