

House Resolution 112

By: Representatives Waites of the 60th, Scott of the 76th, Gardner of the 57th, Kaiser of the 59th, and Bell of the 58th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Center for Women Policy Studies and its work to address
2 the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Center for Women Policy Studies was founded in 1972 as the nation's first
4 feminist policy analysis, research, and advocacy institution; and

5 WHEREAS, its mission is to shape public policy to improve women's lives; and

6 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is increasingly a women's epidemic, both in the United States and
7 globally; and

8 WHEREAS, an estimated 25 percent of persons living with HIV in the United States are
9 women and girls; and

10 WHEREAS, women comprise nearly one-quarter of persons who are newly infected with
11 HIV; and

12 WHEREAS, young women between the ages of 13 and 25 are at extremely high risk of HIV
13 infection and are an increasing percentage of new HIV infections; and

14 WHEREAS, women are more likely to face barriers in accessing HIV prevention, treatment,
15 and care because of their limited decision-making power, lack of control over financial
16 resources, restricted mobility, and child care responsibilities; and

17 WHEREAS, racial and ethnic disparities are particularly pronounced among women living
18 with HIV/AIDS, with African American and Latina women disproportionately affected by
19 HIV/AIDS; and

20 WHEREAS, women in the United States with HIV are less likely to receive combination
21 therapy and have less access to treatment than men; and

22 WHEREAS, the most common methods of HIV transmission for women are heterosexual
23 contact and injection drug use; and

24 WHEREAS, women have a far greater risk of contracting HIV from men during sex than
25 men do from women because of biological determinants; and

26 WHEREAS, women are at higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence, including
27 rape, battering, and forced unprotected sex, which puts them at higher risk of becoming
28 infected with HIV; and

29 WHEREAS, women whose partners rape or batter them often have limited access to legal
30 remedies, even where laws are on the books to make battering a crime, because of fear or
31 coercion; and

32 WHEREAS, for many women, negotiating or demanding condom use is a virtual
33 impossibility; and

34 WHEREAS, such factors as poverty and economic disparities between women and men
35 increase women's vulnerability; and

36 WHEREAS, such factors as violence, inequality, racial and sexual biases, and discriminatory
37 laws directly contribute to health disparities and an increased vulnerability to HIV for
38 women; and

39 WHEREAS, most Americans feel there has not been enough action on HIV from a variety
40 of groups and institutions, including Congress, state and local governments, the media,
41 corporate, religious, and community leaders, and pharmaceutical companies; and

42 WHEREAS, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, on March 10, 2013, is
43 a nationwide observance that encourages people to take action in the fight against HIV/AIDS
44 and raise awareness of its impact on women and girls.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
46 the members of this body commend the Center for Women Policy Studies and its work in

47 response to the HIV/AIDS crisis of women and girls in the world and encourage individuals,
48 elected officials, and community based organizations to take action on March 10, 2013, to
49 address the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.