

CITY OF ELLSWORTH, MAINE – PROCLAMATION
PROCLAIMING DECEMBER 1, 2023, AS WORLD AIDS DAY

WHEREAS,

HIV Infection and AIDS, the stigma that people with HIV and AIDS face, and barriers to equitable and accessible care and treatment continue to be a major concern across the world, across the United States, and here in the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS,

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Let Communities Lead," and the global epidemic of HIV Infection and AIDS requires not only a worldwide effort of compassion, care and science, but also requires us to listen to those with lived experience in order to stop the spread of the virus, and to better care for those living with HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS,

Health Equity Alliance (HEAL), formerly known as Down East AIDS Network and whose original office was in Ellsworth, observes December 1st of each year as World AIDS Day to champion those creating positive change in the movement against the epidemic, to remember those we've lost, and to and to bring into focus the remaining challenges and barriers for individuals living with HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS,

World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to focus on local, state, national, and worldwide attention on HIV and AIDS, to share with the community information on how to prevent the spread of HIV, and to let our communities' voices be heard; and

WHEREAS,

In recognition of the fact that the fight against HIV and AIDS will be won by scientific research and by breaking down stigma, marginalization, and all barriers to effective HIV prevention; and

WHEREAS,

"Undetectable = Untransmittable," or U=U has been shown through scientific research that if a person with HIV is on HIV medication with a consistently undetectable HIV viral load, the virus cannot be transmitted to a sexual partner and people with HIV can lead healthy lives without fear of transmission; and

WHEREAS

As part of this year's World AIDS Day observance, all people are encouraged to understand and spread information about U=U, to be informed and educated about the risks of HIV infection, to fight against deadly stigma whenever possible, and to support the delivery of care for those living with a positive status and those affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic. We encourage all people to listen to the voices of those directly impacted by HIV and AIDS, and to provide support for our communities to lead the fight for a better world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy Smith, City Councilor, on behalf of the City Council do hereby
proclaim December 1, 2023, to be World AIDS Day in the City of Ellsworth.
Given this the 1st day of December of 2023.

Nancy Smith [Signature]
Signature City Councilor