
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 65 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, READSHAW, THOMAS, BISHOP, KIM, FRANKEL,
GAINNEY, YOUNGBLOOD, BAKER, CALTAGIRONE, STURLA, SCHWEYER,
KINSEY, KIRKLAND, DIGIROLAMO, D. COSTA, FREEMAN, McCARTER,
MILLARD, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, McNEILL, COHEN, C. PARKER,
GIBBONS, DeLUCA, KORTZ, BROWNLEE, V. BROWN, MAJOR, MAHONEY,
GOODMAN, WATSON AND ROEBUCK, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 4, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2015, as "National Black HIV/AIDS
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention, HIV/AIDS affect African Americans at alarming rates;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Of all the racial and ethnic groups present within
7 the United States, African Americans are the most affected by
8 HIV/AIDS; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2010, African Americans comprised 13% of the
10 United States population and 44% of all new HIV infections; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2011, African-American males had almost 7.8 times
12 the AIDS rate as Caucasian males and African-American males are
13 7 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as Non-Hispanic Caucasian
14 males; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2011, African-American females had 23 times the

AIDS rate as Caucasian females and African-American females are 15 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as Non-Hispanic Caucasian females; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, African Americans were 8.6 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV infection, as compared to the Caucasian population; and

WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day seeks to educate African Americans about this devastating disease through a platform emphasizing four main points: education, testing, involvement and treatment; and

WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day began in 2000 as five organizations worked collectively to assist in the effort to decrease and ultimately eradicate HIV/AIDS in the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, The five organizations included: Concerned Black Men, Inc., of Philadelphia, Health Watch Information and Promotion Services, Inc., Jackson State University - Mississippi Urban Research Center, National Black Alcoholism and Addictions Council and National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Black Communities (HBC) will serve as the leading organization ensuring the initiative is carried out annually; and

WHEREAS, HBC maintains an active Internet presence promoting awareness of the importance of educating communities on the effects of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that African Americans educate themselves and their communities on the effects of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, African Americans should be tested to learn their HIV/AIDS status because education and early detection are critical in saving lives; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
2 February 7, 2015, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in
3 Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives annually
5 recognize "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" to increase
6 education, promote inclusion and emphasize the importance of
7 testing and HIV/AIDS treatment.