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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 670 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, KINSEY, HEFFLEY,  
DIGIROLAMO, O'BRIEN, ROEBUCK, LONGIETTI, COHEN, KIRKLAND,  
BIZZARRO, MILLARD, WATSON, GAINNEY, THOMAS, MARSICO, SIMS,  
KIM, McNEILL, SCHWEYER, PHILLIPS-HILL, BULLOCK, GOODMAN AND  
KORTZ, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 8, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2016, 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  
16 AIDS rate as Caucasian females, and African-American females are

1 15 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as Non-Hispanic  
2 Caucasian females; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" began in  
11 2000 as five organizations worked collectively to assist in the  
12 effort to decrease and ultimately eradicate HIV/AIDS in the  
13 African-American community; and

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

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

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

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

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

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize

1 February 7, 2016, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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