
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 668 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, HILL-EVANS, BURNS, KULIK, KORTZ,
A. DAVIS, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, KIM, McNEILL, MURT,
ULLMAN, WILLIAMS, FREEMAN, SANCHEZ, DeLUCA, FRANKEL,
KENYATTA, ROEBUCK, INNAMORATO, KIRKLAND AND READSHAW,
JANUARY 17, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 17, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 7, 2020, 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 within the
7 United States, African Americans are the most affected by
8 HIV/AIDS; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2018, African Americans comprised only 13% of the
10 United States population but accounted for 53% of all new HIV
11 infections; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2018, African-American males were diagnosed with
13 AIDS approximately 7.8 times the rate as Caucasian males, and
14 African-American males are 7 times more likely to die from
15 HIV/AIDS than non-Hispanic Caucasian males; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2018, African-American females were diagnosed

1 with AIDS 16 times the rate as Caucasian females, and African-
2 American females are 15 times more likely to die from HIV/AIDS
3 than non-Hispanic Caucasian females; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2018, African Americans were 8.6 times more
5 likely to be diagnosed with HIV infection, as compared to the
6 Caucasian population; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Healthy Black Communities, Inc., known as HBC, is
22 serving as the leading organization ensuring the initiative is
23 carried out annually; and

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

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

29 WHEREAS, African Americans should be tested to learn their
30 HIV/AIDS status because education and early detection are

1 critical in saving lives; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
3 February 7, 2020, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in
4 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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