

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Jake Wheatley

DATE: January 3, 2011

SUBJECT: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Resolution

In the near future, I will be introducing a resolution recognizing February 7, 2011 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Pennsylvania.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects African Americans in the United States. In 2008, African Americans accounted for 13% of the U.S. population, but represented more than 48% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses.

In Pennsylvania, this discrepancy is more profound. African-Americans comprise 11% of the state's population, but accounted for 52% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2008.

This alarming disparity has spurred efforts to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS throughout the country. Since 2000, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day has been recognized annually to encourage increased awareness of the disease in the African American community. In addition to focusing on educational programs to stop the transmission of the disease, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day also encourages African Americans to get tested and determine their HIV status, and to obtain treatment if they are currently living with the disease.

If you would like to join me in recognizing February 7, 2011 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Pennsylvania, please contact April Ashe at 783-3783 or AAshe@pahouse.net.