

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 17 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, BRADFORD, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, GOODMAN, HESS, HORNAMAN, JOHNSON, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANN, MILLARD, MIRABITO, PAYTON, PRESTON, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SCAVELLO, STABACK, STURLA, WATERS, WILLIAMS AND YOUNGBLOOD, JANUARY 19, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY 19, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2011, as "National Black HIV/AIDS  
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
4 reports that the devastating effect of HIV/AIDS has reached an  
5 epidemic level among African Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, At every stage, from HIV diagnosis through the death  
7 of persons with AIDS, the most affected racial or ethnic group  
8 is, by far, African Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, Among diseases that disproportionately affect  
10 African Americans, HIV/AIDS has a particularly damaging effect;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Even though African Americans comprise approximately  
13 13% of the United States population, they account for roughly  
14 one-half of the estimated new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United  
15 States each year; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2008, African Americans accounted for 11% of this

1 Commonwealth's population, but 52% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, More African-American children have been afflicted  
4 with HIV/AIDS than children from all other races and  
5 ethnicities; and

6 WHEREAS, AIDS has become a leading cause of death for African  
7 Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, The survival rate for African Americans diagnosed  
9 with HIV/AIDS is consistently lower than most other racial or  
10 ethnic groups, particularly 48 months after diagnosis; and

11 WHEREAS, February 7 is "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness  
12 Day"; and

13 WHEREAS, This annual observance was created to raise  
14 awareness among African Americans about HIV/AIDS and its  
15 devastating impact on African-American communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The day is part of a national mobilization effort to  
17 encourage African Americans to learn more about the threat posed  
18 by the disease, obtain testing and treatment and make a  
19 commitment to fight HIV/AIDS; and

20 WHEREAS, Awareness is a vital step in stopping the spread of  
21 this disease; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize  
23 February 7, 2011, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in  
24 Pennsylvania to ensure that the residents of this Commonwealth  
25 are aware of the destructive effect of HIV/AIDS on the African-  
26 American community.