
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 670 Session of
2015

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

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

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.