
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 28 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, READSHAW, ISAACSON, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG,
BIZZARRO, ROTHMAN, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, LONGIETTI, McNEILL,
HILL-EVANS, PASHINSKI, RYAN, FREEMAN, STRUZZI, KORTZ, KINSEY,
SAPPEY, JOZWIAK, CALTAGIRONE, McCLINTON, SCHWEYER, NEILSON,
DeLUCA AND GAINEY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 1, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2019, as "National Black HIV/AIDS
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention (CDC), HIV/AIDS affect African Americans at alarming
5 rates; 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 2017, African Americans comprised only 13% of the
10 United States population but accounted for 43% of all new HIV
11 infections; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2017, African-American males were diagnosed with
13 AIDS approximately 8.5 times the rate as Caucasian males,
14 and African-American males are 7 times more likely to die from
15 HIV/AIDS than Non-Hispanic Caucasian males; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2015, African-American females were diagnosed

1 with AIDS 23 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 2015, the HIV incidence rate in Pennsylvania was
5 52 new cases per 100,000 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 1999 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, the National Black Alcoholism and
18 Addictions Council and the National Black Leadership Commission
19 on AIDS; and

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

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

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
2 February 7, 2019, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in
3 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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