
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 68 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, GAINEY, J. HARRIS, KINSEY, BAKER,
SCHLOSSBERG, V. BROWN, YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO, SIMS,
SCHWEYER, BULLOCK, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, MILLARD, THOMAS, HILL-
EVANS, ROEBUCK, CALTAGIRONE, MURT, WARD, READSHAW, DONATUCCI,
FITZGERALD, WATSON, FREEMAN, KORTZ, D. COSTA AND BIZZARRO,
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2017, 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 2010, African Americans comprised only 13% of the
10 United States population but accounted for 44% of all new HIV
11 infections; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2011, African-American males were diagnosed with
13 AIDS approximately 7.8 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

1 WHEREAS, In 2011, African-American females were diagnosed
2 with AIDS 23 times the rate as Caucasian females, and African-
3 American females are 15 times more likely to die from HIV/AIDS
4 than Non-Hispanic Caucasian females; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2011, African Americans were 8.6 times more
6 likely to be diagnosed with HIV infection, as compared to the
7 Caucasian population; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, African Americans should be tested to learn their

1 HIV/AIDS status because education and early detection are
2 critical in saving lives; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
4 February 7, 2017, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in
5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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