
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 294 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, FONTANA, MUTH, KEARNEY, BAKER, STREET,
COSTA, HAYWOOD, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, IOVINO, BREWSTER, MENSCH,
BLAKE, SCHWANK, SABATINA AND TARTAGLIONE, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 7, 2020, 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 2018, African Americans comprised only 13% of the
10 United States population but accounted for 53% of all new HIV
11 infections; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2018, African-American males were diagnosed with
13 AIDS approximately 7.8 times the rate as Caucasian males, and
14 African-American males are 7 times more likely to die from
15 HIV/AIDS than non-Hispanic Caucasian males; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2018, African-American females were diagnosed
17 with AIDS 16 times the rate as Caucasian females, and African-

1 American females are 15 times more likely to die from HIV/AIDS
2 than non-Hispanic Caucasian females; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2018, 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 which include education,
9 testing, 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, the National Black Alcoholism and
18 Addictions Council and the National Black Leadership Commission
19 on AIDS, Inc.; and

20 WHEREAS, Healthy Black Communities, Inc., known as HBC, is
21 serving as the leading organization ensuring the initiative is
22 carried out 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 Senate designate February 7, 2020, as
2 "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
3 it further

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