

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 62

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day”.

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than 1,100,000 people are currently living with HIV in the United States;

Whereas the CDC estimates that 56,300 individuals were newly infected with HIV in 2006;

Whereas the CDC estimates that in 2006 approximately 232,700, or 21 percent of individuals with HIV were unaware that they were infected;

Whereas the estimates by the CDC utilize a new methodology that has resulted in more accurate estimates of new infections than the previous methodology;

Whereas the new estimates of HIV infection rates are 40 percent higher than previous estimates;

Whereas African-Americans account for approximately 12 percent of the population of the United States, but accounted for 45 percent of new HIV infections in 2006;

Whereas, of the estimated 18,849 people under the age of 25 who were diagnosed with HIV between 2001 and 2005, more than 60 percent were African-American;

Whereas young gay men of color bear a disproportionate burden of the epidemic, with more new HIV infections in 2006 occurring among 13 to 29 year old African-American men who have sex with men (MSM) than among any other subpopulation of MSM;

Whereas in 2006, African-American women accounted for 61 percent of new HIV infections among women and had an infection rate that was almost 15 times higher than that of White women;

Whereas the CDC has determined that the leading cause of HIV infection among African-American men is sexual contact with other men, followed by intravenous drug use and heterosexual contact;

Whereas the CDC has determined that the leading cause of HIV infection among African-American women is heterosexual contact, followed by intravenous drug use;

Whereas the Black AIDS Institute notes that there are more African-Americans living with HIV in the United States than there are people living with HIV in 7 out of the 15

focus countries served by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief;

Whereas the CDC notes that socioeconomic issues impact the rates of HIV infection among African-Americans, and studies have found an association between higher AIDS rates and lower incomes;

Whereas the rate of AIDS diagnoses for African-American adults and adolescents is 10 times higher than that of their White counterparts, and the rate of diagnoses for African-American women is nearly 23 times the rate for White women;

Whereas African-Americans are diagnosed with AIDS later than their nonminority counterparts, are confronted with barriers in accessing care and treatment, and face higher morbidity and mortality outcomes;

Whereas the CDC estimates that among persons who were diagnosed with AIDS during 1997 to 2004, African-Americans had the poorest survival rates of any racial or ethnic group, with 66 percent surviving after 9 years compared with 67 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, 74 percent of Hispanics, 75 percent of Whites, and 81 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders;

Whereas in 2004, AIDS was among the top 4 causes of death for African-American men and women between the ages of 25 to 54, the number 2 cause of death for African-American men between the ages of 35 to 44, and the number 1 cause of death for African-American women between the ages 25 to 34;

Whereas in 1998, Congress and the Clinton Administration created the National Minority AIDS Initiative to help coordinate funding, build capacity, and provide prevention,

care, and treatment services within the African-American, Hispanic, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American communities;

Whereas the National Minority AIDS Initiative assists with leadership development of community-based organizations (CBOs), establishes and links provider networks, builds community prevention infrastructure, promotes technical assistance among CBOs, and raises awareness among African-American communities;

Whereas, on February 23, 2001, the first annual “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day” was organized, with the slogan “Get Educated, Get Involved, Get Tested”; and

Whereas February 7 of each year is now recognized as “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day” and this year the slogan is “Black Life is Worth Saving”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of “National
4 Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day” and recognizes
5 the ninth anniversary of observing such day;

6 (2) encourages State and local governments, in-
7 cluding their public health agencies, to recognize
8 such day, to publicize its importance among their
9 communities, and to encourage individuals, espe-
10 cially African-Americans, to get tested for HIV;

1 (3) encourages national, State, and local media
2 organizations to carry messages in support of “Na-
3 tional Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day”;

4 (4) supports the development of a national
5 AIDS strategy with clear goals and objectives to re-
6 duce new HIV infections, especially among African-
7 Americans, men who have sex with men, and other
8 vulnerable communities;

9 (5) supports the strengthening of stable Afri-
10 can-American communities;

11 (6) supports reducing the impact of incarcer-
12 ation as a driver of new HIV infections within the
13 African-American community;

14 (7) supports reducing the number of HIV infec-
15 tions in the African-American community resulting
16 from injection drug use;

17 (8) supports effective and comprehensive HIV
18 prevention education programs to promote the early
19 identification of HIV through voluntary routine test-
20 ing, and to connect those in need to treatment and
21 care as early as possible; and

22 (9) supports appropriate funding for HIV/AIDS
23 prevention, care, treatment, and housing.

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