

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 439

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Asian American and Pacific  
Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ABER-  
CROMBIE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WU, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. AL GREEN  
of Texas, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CAO, and Mr. SABLAN) sub-  
mitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on  
Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Asian American  
and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders constitute di-  
verse communities that include over 50 different ethnic  
subgroups that speak over 100 languages and dialects;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
(CDC) estimates that over 8,232 AIDS cases have been  
diagnosed among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;

Whereas the CDC has reported in its 02/10/06 Morbidity and  
Mortality Weekly Report that the estimated annual per-  
centage changes in HIV/AIDS diagnosis rates were high-  
er for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the

United States than for any other racial/ethnic minority group with rates for men being 8.1 and for women 14.3;

Whereas significant barriers remain for accessing culturally and linguistically competent services, especially HIV testing;

Whereas with increasing rates of infection, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continue to have the lowest rates of accessing HIV testing (32.6 percent);

Whereas the CDC estimates that almost 30 percent of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS are unaware that they are infected with HIV;

Whereas HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination continues to be a growing problem in all communities, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander community;

Whereas HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination increases risk-taking behavior and prevents people from accessing the HIV/AIDS services and support they need;

Whereas the development of the Minority AIDS Initiative in 1998 to coordinate funding, capacity building and prevention, care, and treatment services within African-American, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native American communities has assisted with the development of leadership in minority community-based organizations, provided culturally and linguistically competent HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services, developed community capacity and infrastructure, promoted technical assistance and resources, and raised awareness among Asian American and Pacific Islander communities; and

Whereas, on May 19, 2009, community members from all racial/ethnic groups will come together in recognition of the

fifth annual National Asian American and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2           (1) supports the observance of National Asian  
3       American and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Aware-  
4       ness Day in order to honor the memory of the 3,400  
5       Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with AIDS in  
6       the United States who have died, as well as the  
7       3,160 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who  
8       are still living with HIV/AIDS;

9           (2) recognizes the importance of culturally and  
10       linguistically competent services as a core element in  
11       reducing HIV/AIDS rates in Asian American and  
12       Pacific Islander communities;

13          (3) recognizes the importance of addressing the  
14       gaps in research and data in order to fully under-  
15       stand the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asian American  
16       and Pacific Islander communities; and

17          (4) recognizes the people across the United  
18       States infected and affected by HIV/AIDS who are  
19       commemorating this day with community-wide ac-  
20       tivities and who work to reduce the impact of HIV/  
21       AIDS on Asian American and Pacific Islander com-  
22       munities across the United States and the United  
23       States affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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