
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 870 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, BROWNLEE, O'BRIEN, KIRKLAND, COHEN,
MIRABITO, KINSEY, MILLARD, FARINA, BAKER, ENGLISH,
DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW, MAHONEY, J. HARRIS,
PARKER, V. BROWN, ROSS, DONATUCCI, McCARTER, FRANKEL,
McNEILL, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, MAJOR AND GOODMAN, JUNE 2, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 2, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 27, 2014, as "National HIV Testing Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is a devastating epidemic that continues to
4 spread in communities throughout the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 1,800,000 people in the United States
6 have been infected by HIV/AIDS since the first cases were
7 reported 33 years ago; and

8 WHEREAS, There are approximately 50,000 new HIV infections
9 and approximately 18,000 new AIDS-related deaths every year in
10 the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly among women, young
12 people and racial minorities, all of which are demographic
13 groups that were not considered to be at significant risk of HIV
14 infection during the early years of the epidemic; and

15 WHEREAS, Women account for 20% of new HIV infections in the
16 United States; and

1 WHEREAS, African-American women account for 64% of new HIV
2 infections among women; and

3 WHEREAS, African Americans account for 44% of new HIV
4 infections, although only 12% of the United States population is
5 African-American; and

6 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans account for 21% of new HIV
7 infections, although only 16% of the United States population is
8 Hispanic-American; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian Americans account for 2% of the new HIV
10 infections, and Native Americans and Alaskan Natives account for
11 1% of new HIV infections; and

12 WHEREAS, People of color account for 68% of new HIV
13 infections; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 18% of the people living with HIV/AIDS
15 in the United States do not know they are infected; and

16 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
17 guidelines for HIV screening in health care settings recommend
18 routine HIV testing for all patients between the ages of 13 and
19 64, regardless of risk factors; and

20 WHEREAS, Individuals are more likely to act responsibly and
21 protect themselves and other persons in the community when they
22 know their HIV status; and

23 WHEREAS, Individuals who are HIV-positive must learn their
24 status in order to obtain counseling on managing their health,
25 access appropriate medical and social services, begin life-
26 prolonging treatment and take actions to avoid spreading the
27 virus to others; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
29 27, 2014, as "National HIV Testing Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
30 it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
2 individuals to get tested for HIV and educate themselves about
3 the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.