
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 273 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, DINNIMAN, LEACH, FONTANA, GREENLEAF,
BREWSTER, BROWNE, SABATINA, SCHWANK, AUMENT, RAFFERTY,
TARTAGLIONE, COSTA AND VULAKOVICH, FEBRUARY 6, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 6, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2018, as "National Black HIV/AIDS
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention (CDC), HIV/AIDS affect African Americans at alarming
5 rates; 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

16 WHEREAS, In 2011, African-American females were diagnosed
17 with AIDS 23 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 2015, African-American males were nearly 8 times
4 more likely to be diagnosed with an HIV infection, as compared
5 to Caucasian males; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2015, African-American females were 16 times more
7 likely to be diagnosed with an HIV infection, as compared to
8 Caucasian females; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the CDC, in 2016, African Americans
10 comprised 12% of the United States population but accounted for
11 44% of all new HIV infections; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition, African Americans have the highest
13 rates of new HIV infections and new AIDS diagnoses of any racial
14 and ethnic group; and

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

19 WHEREAS, "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" began in
20 2000 as five organizations worked collectively to assist in the
21 effort to decrease and ultimately eradicate HIV/AIDS in the
22 African-American community; and

23 WHEREAS, The five organizations included: Concerned Black
24 Men, Inc., of Philadelphia, Health Watch Information and
25 Promotion Services, Inc., Jackson State University - Mississippi
26 Urban Research Center, the National Black Alcoholism and
27 Addictions Council and the National Black Leadership Commission
28 on AIDS; and

29 WHEREAS, Healthy Black Communities, Inc., (HBC) will serve as
30 the leading organization ensuring the initiative is carried out

1 annually; and

2 WHEREAS, HBC maintains an active Internet presence promoting
3 awareness of the importance of educating communities on the
4 effects of HIV/AIDS; and

5 WHEREAS, HBC attempts to decrease and ultimately eradicate
6 HIV/AIDS in the African-American community by utilizing a four-
7 point strategy, including education, testing, involvement and
8 treatment; and

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

11 WHEREAS, This year's observance of "National Black HIV/AIDS
12 Awareness Day" marks the 17th anniversary of the cause; and

13 WHEREAS, African Americans should be tested to learn their
14 HIV/AIDS status because education and early detection are
15 critical in saving lives; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize February 7, 2018, as
17 "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.