



2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

March 13, 2015 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, HARRIS DODD, CARPENTER and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives JOHNSON, HESSELBEIN, OHNSTAD, SPREITZER, WACHS, HINTZ, KESSLER, CONSIDINE, SUBECK, GOYKE and ZAMARRIPA. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming the first week in March as the Black Church Week of
2 Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

3 Whereas, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that affects one's
4 immune system, specifically attacking one's T-cells, leaving one unable to fight
5 infections and diseases; and

6 Whereas, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is the final stage of the
7 HIV infection and a stage to which a person progresses when his or her immune
8 system is severely damaged, but is not a stage experienced by everyone who has HIV;
9 and

10 Whereas, unless the course of HIV in the United States changes, an estimated
11 one in 16 black men and one in 32 black women will be diagnosed with HIV infection
12 at some point in their lifetime; and

13 Whereas, African Americans face a number of challenges that contribute to the
14 higher rates of HIV infection, including limited access to high-quality health care
15 and medication, housing, and HIV prevention education; and

1 Whereas, as shown during the 1970s and 1980s HIV/AIDS crisis across our
2 country, outreach, education, and prevention help to curb the spread of the disease
3 and save lives in the LGBT community; and

4 Whereas, the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS of
5 Wisconsin mobilizes area churches to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS; and

6 Whereas, the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is a
7 faith-based initiative supported by the Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied
8 for Hope (MICAH) and Pastors United; and

9 Whereas, the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS serves as
10 an opportunity for all sectors of the Wisconsin community to become more
11 supportive, aware, and involved in the effort to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in the
12 African American community; and

13 Whereas, the African American community, with the guidance of area
14 churches, needs to create a dialogue of awareness about HIV and its impact on the
15 lives of fellow African Americans in order to fight stigma by showing that persons
16 with HIV are real people — mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and
17 daughters, and wives and husbands; and

18 Whereas, through the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS of
19 Wisconsin, MICAH and Pastors United will help to create community discussion and
20 awareness while advocating for HIV/AIDS services in the African American
21 community; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature
23 hereby proclaims the first week in March as the Black Church Week of Prayer for the
24 Healing of AIDS.

25 (END)