

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 35

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 2007

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan) 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 HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States has shifted primarily to the African-American community and other communities of color;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that, at the end of 2005, over 188,000 African Americans were living with AIDS, representing 44 percent of all cases in the United States;

Whereas since the beginning of the epidemic, African Americans have accounted for nearly 400,000 or 42 percent of the estimated 953,000 AIDS cases diagnosed, and through December 2005, an estimated 211,559 African Americans with AIDS have died;

Whereas the CDC has further stated that, in 2005, African Americans accounted for nearly 50 percent of all new HIV infections, despite representing only about 12.3 percent of the population (according to the 2000 Census);

Whereas the CDC estimates that, in 2005, African-American women accounted for over 66 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases among women, and were 25 times more likely to be infected than White women;

Whereas the CDC estimates that of the over 18,800 people under the age of 25 whose diagnosis of HIV/AIDS was made during 2001–2004, 61 percent were African American;

Whereas the CDC estimates that 73 percent of all children born to HIV infected mothers in 2004 were African-American;

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 in 2002, AIDS was among the top three causes of death for African-American men in the age group 25 through 54, among the top four causes of death for African-American women in the age group 25 through 54, and the number one cause of death for African-American women aged 25 to 34 years;

Whereas the CDC estimates that, since 1996, African Americans have the poorest survival rates of any racial or ethnic group diagnosed with AIDS, with 64 percent sur-

living after 9 years compared to 65 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, 72 percent of Hispanics, 74 percent of Whites, and 81 percent of Asian Pacific Islanders;

Whereas African Americans are diagnosed with AIDS later than nonminority counterparts, are confronted with barriers in accessing care and treatment, and due to marginalized social status and stigma face higher morbidity and mortality outcomes;

Whereas in 1998, the 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 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: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
2 Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and recognizes the
3 seventh anniversary of observing such day;

4 (2) encourages State and local governments, in-
5 cluding their public health agencies, to recognize
6 such day, to publicize its importance among their
7 communities, and to encourage individuals to under-
8 go testing for HIV;

9 (3) encourages national, State, and local media
10 organizations to carry messages in support of Na-
11 tional Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day;

12 (4) supports full and equitable funding for the
13 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization
14 Act of 2006;

15 (5) applauds the codification of the Minority
16 AIDS Initiative within the reauthorization of the
17 Ryan White CARE Act;

18 (6) supports the appropriate expansion of HIV/
19 AIDS funding under Medicare and Medicaid;

20 (7) supports the strengthening of stable Afri-
21 can-American communities by addressing the need
22 for more affordable housing, including the expansion
23 of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
24 program.

1 (8) supports reducing the impact of incarceration
2 ation as a driver of new HIV infections within the
3 African-American community by—

4 (A) providing voluntary, routine HIV test-
5 ing of incarcerated persons upon entry and re-
6 lease;

7 (B) making HIV prevention education
8 available in correctional facilities; and

9 (C) expanding reentry programs to help
10 ex-offenders successfully transition back into
11 society;

12 (9) supports the expansion of effective and com-
13 prehensive HIV prevention education programs to
14 promote the early identification of HIV through vol-
15 untary routine testing, and to connect those in need
16 to treatment and care as early as possible;

17 (10) supports reducing the number of HIV in-
18 fections in the African-American community result-
19 ing from injection drug use by expanding substance
20 abuse prevention programs, drug treatment and re-
21 covery services, and innovative harm reduction pro-
22 grams for those who are currently addicted; and

23 (11) supports efforts to link those infected with
24 HIV to accessible care and treatment options.

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