

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. J. RES. 136

Designating the month of April 1993 as “National African American Health Awareness Month”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 1993

Mr. STOKES (for himself, Mr. WYNN, Mrs. MEEK, Miss COLLINS of Michigan, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TUCKER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCKINNEY, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. WATT, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Mr. MFUME, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. DIXON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. FORD of Tennessee, Ms. E.B. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BLACKWELL, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. DELLUMS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. WASHINGTON) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Post Office and Civil Service and Energy and Commerce

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## **JOINT RESOLUTION**

Designating the month of April 1993 as “National African American Health Awareness Month”.

Whereas the health status of racial and other minorities in the United States lags behind that of nonminorities;

Whereas compared to nonminorities, minorities suffer more than 60,000 “excess” deaths annually;

Whereas African Americans are more likely to die from cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke, chemical dependency, infant mortality, renal failure, violence, and AIDS, than any other minority;

Whereas African Americans have a higher incidence of blindness due to glaucoma and diabetic eye disease and suffer at a disproportionate rate from lung and bronchus cancer caused by health risks such as smoking and radon;

Whereas efforts should be made to increase public awareness that the crisis in minority health affects all Americans because of billions of dollars associated with health care expenditures and reduced productivity due to minority health-related problems;

Whereas statistics have shown that minority health providers are more likely to practice in underserved areas and there is a decrease in the numbers of African Americans entering the health field;

Whereas the United States Department of Health and Human Services has determined public awareness and culturally sensitive, health education are essential to improve the health of African Americans; and

Whereas National Negro Health Week, established in 1915 by Booker T. Washington, in response to the health care crisis by African Americans, became the precedent for a nationwide commemorative observance under the direction of the United States Public Health Service from 1932 through 1950 during the first week of April: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.**

2 The month of April 1993 is designated as “National  
3 African American Health Awareness Month”, and the  
4 President is authorized and requested to issue a proclama-  
5 tion—

6 (1) encouraging all health organizations to host  
7 activities to promote healthfulness in African Amer-  
8 ican communities, and

9 (2) calling upon the people of the United States  
10 to observe this month with appropriate programs  
11 and activities.

12 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

13 In conjunction with “National African American  
14 Health Awareness Month”, the Secretary of Health and  
15 Human Services shall, in cooperation with African Amer-  
16 ican health, civic, religious and social organizations—

17 (1) make information available to the public—

18 (A) on the health problems currently fac-  
19 ing minority populations, especially African  
20 Americans, and

21 (B) on the careers and contributions of mi-  
22 nority health professionals, particularly African  
23 American health professionals, and

24 (2) present public service announcements on  
25 health promotion and disease prevention among Af-  
26 rican Americans.

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