

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 280

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2008

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) 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 and 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 3 causes of death for African-American men in the age group 25 through 54, among the top 4 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 surviving 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 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—

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of “National
 4 Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day” and recognizes
 5 the eighth anniversary of observing such day;

6 (2) encourages State and local governments, in-
 7 cluding their public health agencies, to recognize
 8 such day, to publicize its importance among their
 9 communities, and to encourage individuals, espe-
 10 cially African-American individuals, to undergo test-
 11 ing for HIV;

12 (3) encourages national, State, and local media
 13 organizations to carry messages in support of “Na-
 14 tional Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day”;

15 (4) supports full and equitable funding for the
 16 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization
 17 Act of 2006;

18 (5) applauds the codification of the Minority
 19 AIDS Initiative within the reauthorization of the
 20 Ryan White CARE Act;

21 (6) supports the development of a national
 22 AIDS plan with clear goals and objectives to reduce
 23 new HIV infections, especially among the African-
 24 American community and other communities of
 25 color;

1 (7) supports appropriate funding for HIV/AIDS
2 prevention and treatment;

3 (8) supports the strengthening of stable Afri-
4 can-American communities;

5 (9) supports reducing the impact of incarcer-
6 ation as a driver of new HIV infections within the
7 African-American community;

8 (10) supports effective and comprehensive HIV
9 prevention education programs to promote the early
10 identification of HIV through voluntary routine test-
11 ing, and to connect those in need to treatment and
12 care as early as possible;

13 (11) supports reducing the number of HIV in-
14 fections in the African-American community result-
15 ing from injection drug use; and

16 (12) supports efforts to link those infected with
17 HIV to accessible care and treatment options.

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