

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 233

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2010

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CAO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland) 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the United States, at the end of 2006, 1,106,400 people were living with the HIV, and 21 percent did not know they were infected;

Whereas each year 56,300 people become newly infected with HIV in the United States, and on average, an individual is infected with HIV every 9½ minutes;

Whereas a total of 583,298 people have died of AIDS in the United States from the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epi-

demic through 2007, and African-Americans account for approximately 40 percent of such deaths;

Whereas at the end of 2006, African-Americans represented 46 percent of all people living with HIV in the United States, Whites represented 35 percent, Hispanics represented 18 percent, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders represented 1 percent, and American Indians and Alaska Natives represented less than 1 percent;

Whereas African-Americans account for approximately 12 percent of the population of the United States, but accounted for 51 percent of all HIV/ADS cases diagnosed in 2007;

Whereas although African-American teens (ages 13–19) represent only 15 percent of all teenagers in the United States, they accounted for 68 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2007;

Whereas young gay men of color bear a disproportionate burden of the epidemic, with more new HIV infections in 2006 occurring among 13 to 29 year old African-American men who have sex with men (MSM) than among any other subpopulation of MSM;

Whereas in 2006, African-American women accounted for 61 percent of new HIV infections among women and had an infection rate that was almost 15 times higher than that of White women;

Whereas among African-American men, the leading transmission category of HIV infection is sexual contact with other men, followed by intravenous drug use and heterosexual contact;

Whereas among African-American women, the leading transmission category of HIV infection is heterosexual contact, followed by intravenous drug use;

Whereas the Black AIDS Institute notes that there are more African-Americans living with HIV in the United States than there are people living with HIV in 7 out of the 15 focus countries served by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief;

Whereas the CDC notes that socioeconomic issues impact the rates of HIV infection among African-Americans, and studies have found an association between higher AIDS rates and lower incomes;

Whereas in 2007, the rate of AIDS diagnoses for Black women was 22 times the rate for White women and the rate of AIDS diagnoses for Black men was almost 8 times the rate for White men;

Whereas African-Americans are diagnosed with AIDS later than their nonminority counterparts, are confronted with barriers in accessing care and treatment, and face higher morbidity and mortality outcomes;

Whereas the CDC estimates that among persons whose diagnosis of AIDS had been made during 1997 to 2004, African-Americans had the poorest survival rates of any racial or ethnic group, with 66 percent surviving after 9 years compared with 67 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, 74 percent of Hispanics, 75 percent of Whites, and 81 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders;

Whereas in 2006, AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death for African-American men and the third for African-American women, ages 25 to 44, ranking higher than

for their respective counterparts in any other racial or ethnic group;

Whereas in 1998, 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 April 7, 2009, the CDC launched a new communication campaign entitled “Act Against AIDS”, to facilitate awareness, public education, health literacy, healthcare provider marketing, and highly targeted behavior change communication objectives in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

Whereas as part of the “Act Against AIDS” campaign, the CDC launched a \$10,000,000, five-year partnership with 14 African-American organizations to “harness the collective strength and reach of traditional, longstanding African-American institutions to increase HIV-related awareness, knowledge, and action within black communities across the United States”;

Whereas the Black AIDS Media Partnership in conjunction with the CDC’s “Act Against AIDS” campaign has launched “Greater Than AIDS”, a public information campaign designed to reach African-Americans with life-

saving information about HIV/AIDS and to confront the stigma surrounding the disease;

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” and this year the slogan is “HIV/AIDS Prevention—A Choice and a Lifestyle”: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of “National
4 Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day” and recognizes
5 the 10th 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-Americans, to get tested for HIV;

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

14 (4) supports the development of a national
15 AIDS strategy with clear goals and objectives to re-
16 duce new HIV infections, especially among African-

1 Americans, men who have sex with men, and other
2 vulnerable communities;

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

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

8 (7) supports reducing the number of HIV infec-
9 tions in the African-American community resulting
10 from injection drug use;

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

16 (9) supports appropriate funding for HIV/AIDS
17 prevention, care, treatment, and housing.

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