

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 51

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2011

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## 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, more than 1,100,000 people are living with HIV, and 21 percent do not know they are 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 597,499 people have died of AIDS in the United States from the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic through 2007, and African-Americans account for approximately 40 percent of such deaths;

Whereas at the end of 2007, African-Americans represented 48 percent of all people living with HIV in the United States, Whites represented 33 percent, Hispanics represented 17 percent, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders represented 1 percent, and American Indians and Alaska Natives represented less than 1 percent;

Whereas African-Americans represent approximately 12 percent of the population of the United States, but accounted for 52 percent of all new HIV cases diagnosed in 2008;

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, accounting for 35 percent of new infections among all MSM and 63 percent of new infections among African-American men;

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 and 4 times higher than Hispanic 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 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 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, HIV was the ninth leading cause of death for all African-Americans, and the third leading cause of death for both African-American men and African-American women between the ages of 35 to 44;

Whereas in the United States as of January 6, 2011, approximately 5,154 people across 10 States have been placed on waiting lists to receive AIDS treatment through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program authorized through the Ryan White CARE Act;

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 National 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, health care 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 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 July 13, 2010, after conducting a series of town halls across the country to solicit feedback from communities impacted by HIV/AIDS, the White House Office of National AIDS Policy released the “National AIDS Strategy for the United States” along with an accompanying “Federal Implementation Plan” to achieve the goals of reducing new HIV infections, increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV, reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities, and achieving a more coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic;

Whereas the first annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was organized on February 23, 2001; and

Whereas February 7 of each year is now recognized as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with the slogan “Get Educated! Get Tested! Get Involved! Get Treated!”, and this year the theme is “It Takes A Village To Fight HIV/AIDS”: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2               (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
- 3       Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and recognizes the
- 4       11th anniversary of observing such day;
- 5               (2) encourages State and local governments, in-
- 6       cluding their public health agencies, to recognize
- 7       such day, to publicize its importance among their
- 8       communities, and to all encourage individuals, espe-
- 9       cially African-Americans, to get tested for HIV;

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

4           (4) commends the work of AIDS service organi-  
5 zations and community and faith-based organiza-  
6 tions that are providing effective, evidence-based,  
7 prevention, treatment, care, and support services to  
8 people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS;

9           (5) supports the implementation of the National  
10 AIDS Strategy and its goals to reduce new HIV in-  
11 fections, increase access to care and improve health  
12 outcomes for people living with HIV, reduce HIV-re-  
13 lated disparities and health inequities, and achieve a  
14 more coordinated national response to the HIV epi-  
15 demic;

16           (6) supports the strengthening of stable Afri-  
17 can-American communities;

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

21           (8) supports reducing the number of HIV infec-  
22 tions in the African-American community resulting  
23 from intravenous drug use;

24           (9) supports effective and comprehensive HIV  
25 prevention education programs to promote the early

- 1 identification of HIV through voluntary routine test-
- 2 ing, and to connect those in need to treatment and
- 3 care as early as possible; and
- 4 (10) supports appropriate funding for HIV/
- 5 AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and housing.

