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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, February 7, 2019 is the 18th annual commemoration  
3 and observance of National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness  
4 Day; and

5 WHEREAS, This observance is a nationwide effort to mobilize  
6 African-American communities to get educated, tested,  
7 involved, and treated for HIV/AIDS, as it continues to  
8 devastate African-American communities; and

9 WHEREAS, National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
10 is directed, planned, and strategically implemented by  
11 HIV/AIDS organizations to mobilize community-based  
12 organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS  
13 prevention, care, and treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, African-Americans account for 46.8% of people  
15 living with HIV, although they represent just 12% of the United  
16 States population; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois has witnessed HIV infections drop by 35%  
18 over the last decade, however, nearly 43,000 residents of  
19 Illinois are still living with HIV (including the undiagnosed);  
20 the Black community continues to be disproportionately impacted  
21 by the epidemic; Black gay men are experiencing an increase in

1 HIV cases, particularly among youth; Black woman account for  
2 more than 73% of women who are newly diagnosed and women who  
3 are living with HIV; and

4 WHEREAS, Nearly 43,000 residents of Illinois are living  
5 with HIV (including the undiagnosed), and 52% of people newly  
6 diagnosed with HIV are African-American; and

7 WHEREAS, Young African-American gay men under the age of 30  
8 in Chicago have an infection rate three times greater than  
9 their white counterparts; and

10 WHEREAS, At the current rate of infection, nationally 1 in  
11 4 gay African-American men will become HIV-positive by the time  
12 they are 25, and 1 in 2 will have HIV by the time they are 35;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Of those African-Americans that are HIV-positive,  
15 fewer than half are prescribed antiretroviral therapy (HIV  
16 medication), and just 37% reach viral suppression; and

17 WHEREAS, Over two-thirds of women diagnosed with HIV in the  
18 United States are African-American; Center for Disease Control  
19 data reports that by race/ethnicity, African-American  
20 transgender women have the highest percentage of new HIV  
21 positive test results; and

1           WHEREAS, HIV medication taken daily (Pre-Exposure  
2           Prophylaxis or PrEP) is nearly 100% effective at preventing HIV  
3           infection when used consistently and correctly and creates the  
4           opportunity to dramatically reduce HIV infections in the Black  
5           community, but awareness of PrEP and access to PrEP is low in  
6           the Black community for those who could potentially benefit  
7           from PrEP, based on the CDC guidelines; only 1% of PrEP users  
8           are Black; and

9           WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly and administration  
10          failed to transfer money to the African-American American  
11          HIV/AIDS Response Fund, resulting in an inability to make  
12          grants to organizations focused on fighting the epidemic in the  
13          African-American community; and

14          WHEREAS, Numerous organizations, faith-based institutions,  
15          public health entities, and impacted citizens are hosting  
16          community events to recognize this day and its importance to  
17          African-Americans and all concerned citizens; and

18          WHEREAS, It is fitting that we join with these local,  
19          national, and international groups to express our strong  
20          support for National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
21          and the initiatives to prevent HIV/AIDS in African-American  
22          communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS

1 prevention, treatment, and support services to those affected  
2 by HIV/AIDS; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we declare February 7, 2019 as National African-American  
6 HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Illinois, and encourage local  
7 residents to strongly support this day and participate in  
8 events planned to commemorate the occasion.