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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, February 7, 2018 is the 17th annual commemoration
3 and observance of National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness
4 Day; and

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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

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WHEREAS, National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
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

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

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

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WHEREAS, Young African-American gay men under the age of 30

1 in Chicago have an infection rate three times greater than
2 their white counterparts; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Over two-thirds of women diagnosed with HIV in the
11 United States are African-American; Center for Disease Control
12 data reports that by race/ethnicity, African-American
13 transgender women have the highest percentage of new HIV
14 positive test results; and

15 WHEREAS, HIV medications taken daily (Pre-Exposure
16 Prophylaxis or PrEP) have a greater than 90% chance of
17 preventing HIV infection in people who are HIV-negative, but
18 awareness of PrEP and access to PrEP is low in the most
19 vulnerable communities; and

20 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly and administration
21 failed to transfer money to the African-American American

1 HIV/AIDS Response Fund resulting in an inability to make grants
2 to organizations focused on fighting the epidemic in the
3 African-American community; and

4 WHEREAS, Numerous organizations, faith-based institutions,
5 public health entities, and impacted citizens are hosting
6 community events to recognize this day and its importance to
7 African-Americans and all concerned citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we join with these local,
9 national, and international groups to express our strong
10 support for National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
11 and the initiatives to prevent HIV/AIDS in African-American
12 communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS
13 prevention, treatment, and support services to those affected
14 by HIV/AIDS; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
17 declare February 7, 2018 as National African-American HIV/AIDS
18 Awareness Day in Illinois, and encourage local residents to
19 strongly support this day and participate in events planned to
20 commemorate the occasion.