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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, February 7, 2019 is the 19th year of commemoration
3 and observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

4 WHEREAS, This observance is a nationwide effort to mobilize
5 Black communities to get educated, tested, treated, and
6 involved with their local HIV/AIDS community efforts; and

7 WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is
8 directed, planned, and strategically overseen by a Strategic
9 Leadership Council (SLC) made up of prominent organizations,
10 including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
11 and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
12 (SAMHSA), to mobilize community-based organizations and
13 stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and
14 treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Even though the number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses
16 has declined significantly since 2008, Blacks are the
17 racial/ethnic group most disproportionately affected by the
18 virus and account for 44 percent of all HIV infections in the
19 United States, even though they make up only 12 percent of the
20 U.S. population; and

21 WHEREAS, More than half (53 percent) of all Blacks who

1 received an HIV diagnosis in 2017 were gay or bisexual men; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2017, 330 Blacks died of HIV disease,
3 accounting for 59 percent of total deaths from HIV that year in
4 the U.S.; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2017, Illinois ranked sixth for estimated
6 number of AIDS cases and had the seventh highest number of
7 diagnosed HIV infections, with 38,564 people living with HIV,
8 of which 46 percent were Black even though they make up only
9 14.1 percent of the population; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2017 in Illinois, Black males made up 33
11 percent of all diagnoses among all racial/ethnic groups, and
12 Black females made up 12 percent of all diagnoses among
13 racial/ethnic groups; and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health supports
15 and the Getting to Zero strategy to address racial disparities
16 and end HIV transmission in Illinois by 2030 and promotes the
17 Text2Survive text messaging program to increase access to
18 affordable, culturally appropriate testing and care services;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health Center
21 for Minority Health Services and HIV/AIDS Section along with

1 its community partners are hosting community events throughout
2 the state to recognize this day and its importance to Blacks
3 and all concerned citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we join with these local,
5 national, and international groups to express our strong
6 support for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and the
7 initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Black
8 communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS
9 prevention, treatment, and support services to those affected
10 by HIV/AIDS; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
13 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare February 7, 2019 as Black
14 HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Illinois; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That local residents are encouraged to support
16 this day and participate in events, trainings, and other
17 planned activities to commemorate the occasion, as community
18 involvement is crucial to eliminating stigma, debunking myths,
19 promoting awareness and education, increasing access to HIV
20 testing, and eradicating of the HIV virus.