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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The date of February 7, 2013 marks the 12th annual commemoration and observance of National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

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

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

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WHEREAS, Nearly 46,000 residents of Illinois are living with HIV; 55% of people diagnosed with HIV are African-American; and

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WHEREAS, African-American gay men under the age of 30 in Chicago have an infection rate 3 times greater than their white counterparts; and

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WHEREAS, Over two-thirds of women diagnosed with HIV in the

1 United States are African-American; and

2 WHEREAS, Among African-Americans ages 25-44, HIV was the
3 4th leading cause of death for men and 3rd leading cause of
4 death for women, higher than any other racial group; and

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

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

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the date
18 of February 7, 2013 as National African-American HIV/AIDS
19 Awareness Day in the State of Illinois and encourage the
20 citizens of this State to strongly support this day and
21 participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.