

February 5, 2007

H.Con.Res. 35 – Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Floor Situation

H.Con.Res. 35 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) on January 18, 2007, and has not been considered by any committee in the 110th Congress.

H.Con.Res. 35 is expected to be considered on February 5, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 94 resolves, with the Senate concurring, that the House of Representatives:

- supports the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and recognizes the seventh anniversary of observing such day;
- Encourages State and local governments, including their public health agencies, to recognize such day, to publicize its importance among their communities, and to encourage individuals to undergo testing for HIV;
- Encourages national, State, and local media organizations to carry messages in support of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day;
- Supports full and equitable funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006;
- Applauds the codification of the Minority AIDS Initiative within the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act;
- Supports the appropriate expansion of HIV/AIDS funding under Medicare and Medicaid;
- Supports the strengthening of stable African-American communities by addressing the need for more affordable housing, including the expansion of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program.
- Supports reducing the impact of incarceration as a driver of new HIV infections within the African-American community by--
 - Providing voluntary, routine HIV testing of incarcerated persons upon entry and release;
 - Making HIV prevention education available in correctional facilities; and
 - Expanding reentry programs to help ex-offenders successfully transition back into society;

- Supports the expansion of effective and comprehensive HIV prevention education programs to promote the early identification of HIV through voluntary routine testing, and to connect those in need to treatment and care as early as possible;
- Supports reducing the number of HIV infections in the African-American community resulting from injection drug use by expanding substance abuse prevention programs, drug treatment and recovery services, and innovative harm reduction programs for those who are currently addicted; and
- Supports efforts to link those infected with HIV to accessible care and treatment options.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that, at the end of 2005, over 188,000 African Americans were living with AIDS, representing 44 percent of all cases in the United States. The CDC has further stated that, in 2005, African Americans accounted for nearly 50 percent of all new HIV infections, despite representing only about 12.3 percent of the population (according to the 2000 Census).

In 1998, the 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.

February 7 of each year is now recognized as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Staff Contact

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