



**SR-15** (2019-2020)

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ENROLLED FEBRUARY 08, 2019

PASSED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 07, 2019

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**NO. 15**

Introduced by Senators Mitchell, Atkins, Bradford, Galgiani, and Wiener

January 31, 2019

Relative to Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SR 15, Mitchell.

WHEREAS, More than 1.2 million people living in the United States are infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and one in eight is unaware of the infection; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, five states, including California, made up almost one-half of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, there were 5,061 new diagnoses of HIV, 955 of which were African Americans; and

WHEREAS, The rate of black men living with HIV is two and one-half times that of white men and the rate of black women living with HIV is 9.4 times that of white women; and

WHEREAS, The overall rate of new HIV diagnoses among black individuals is more than four times the rate of white individuals in 2015; and

WHEREAS, A much higher proportion of LGBTQ individuals have HIV compared to any other group in the United States, and therefore have an increased chance of having an HIV-positive partner; and

WHEREAS, One in two people with HIV have had the virus at least three years before diagnosis and about 40 percent of new HIV infections come from people who do not know they have HIV; and

WHEREAS, We should encourage friends and family to get tested at least once, and people at high risk should be tested at least once a year; and

WHEREAS, Due to stigmatization and marginalization, the black community is at heightened risk for HIV, while also not being targeted with increased HIV supportive services; and

WHEREAS, The theme of the 2019 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is "Stay The Course. The Fight is Not Over!"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate proclaims February 7, 2019, as Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in California in order to encourage greater awareness, education, community engagement, and treatment among black communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.