



A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A NATIONWIDE FOCUS ON HIV/AIDS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE DISEASE ON BLACK WOMEN, GIRLS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, December 1 has been named World AIDS Day and celebrated in countries across the globe since 1988;

WHEREAS World AIDS Day was created to 1) unify people around a crushing disease, 2) to support those living with HIV/AIDS, and 3) to commemorate those who have died from HIV/AIDS;

WHEREAS, an estimated 34 million people worldwide have HIV, and more than 35 million people have died from the virus, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history;

WHEREAS, though HIV/AIDS has a great impact across the globe, its effect on Americans, especially African Americans is of great concern for the both the public health and public policy communities in the United States;

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans are affected by HIV more than any other racial group, and the rate of new HIV infection in African Americans is eight times that of Whites;

WHEREAS, the estimated rate of new HIV infections for African American women is 20 times that of White women and almost five times that of Hispanic women;

WHEREAS, the intersections between HIV/AIDS, violence against women and girls, and gender-related health disparities have been recognized as a national problem and tackled on the federal level through interagency collaboration of the Office of National AIDS Policy, the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, the White House Council on Women and Girls, and others;

WHEREAS, over one-third of U.S. women have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime; of these women, 69% report experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) at age 25 or younger, and 22% experienced IPV for the first time between the ages of 11 and 17 years;

WHEREAS, Black women experience higher rates of intimate partner homicide and significantly higher rates (67%) of IPV than other women in the U.S.;



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WHEREAS, adult and childhood trauma, physical violence and sexual abuse are major factors fueling the HIV epidemic among Black women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) joins partners such as the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc. (NBWHAN) in a nationwide effort to increase awareness around the aforementioned intersections and their effect on Black women and their families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women joins elected officials, corporate partners, and community stakeholders nationwide to recognize December 1 as World AIDS Day;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women urges its member legislators across all 50 states to join in the day's observation, and to promote policies and programs that further HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention in their respective districts and neighborhoods;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women sees the intersections between HIV/AIDS, violence against women and girls, and gender-related health disparities as a growing problem unique to Black women and their communities and calls for its immediate elimination; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women is committed to working with federal agencies such as the Office of National AIDS Policy, the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, the White House Council on Women and Girls, community partners, and corporate stakeholders to address these intersections holistically recognizing the problem as a intergenerational one affecting women across human life span.