

STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Proclamation

WHEREAS, African Americans and African-born communities represent approximately 14 percent of the United States population, and have the most severe burden of HIV infections compared to all other racial and ethnic groups in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 50 percent of individuals diagnosed with HIV between 2011 and 2015 were black, compared to 23 percent white and 19 percent Latino; and,

WHEREAS, the rate of new HIV infection among blacks in Illinois, excluding Chicago, was more than three times that of Latinos and nearly 11 times that of whites; in Chicago it was more than two times that of Latinos, whites, and other racial/ethnic categories; and,

WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide observance to call attention to the threat and devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on these communities, and to raise awareness among all African Americans and Africans to get educated, tested, treated, and involved with their local HIV/AIDS community efforts; and,

WHEREAS, community involvement in promoting awareness and HIV testing is crucial to reducing stigma and identifying and treating undiagnosed individuals who are unaware of their infection; and,

WHEREAS, local community-based organizations join national groups and organizations to host community events, trainings, exhibits, and testing opportunities to recognize this day and its importance to these communities and the citizens of Illinois;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 7, 2017, as **NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY** in Illinois, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this NINETEENTH day of JANUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SEVENTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and NINETY-NINTH.

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SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR