

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, February 7, 2016, is the 16th year of commemoration and observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, this observance is a nationwide effort to educate black communities about getting tested and treated for HIV/AIDS; and,

WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed, planned and overseen by a Strategic Leadership Council (SLC) made up of prominent organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to mobilize community-based organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment; and,

WHEREAS, African Americans are the racial/ethnic group most affected by HIV, and account for half of all HIV infections in the United States, even though they make up only 14 percent of the population, and,

WHEREAS, 43,500 people in Illinois are living with HIV and half of those diagnosed are black even though black people make up only 15 percent of the state's population, and,

WHEREAS, black men have the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases among all racial/ethnic groups with 43 percent of diagnosed cases, and black women account for 66 percent of all Illinois females living with HIV, and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Minority Health Services and HIV/AIDS Section and our community partners are hosting community events throughout the State to recognize this day and its importance to blacks and all concerned citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we join with these local, national and international groups to express our strong support for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Black communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support services to those affected by HIV/AIDS;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby designate February 7, 2016, as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Illinois, and encourage local residents to strongly support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.

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 _____ EIGHTH _____ day of _____ FEBRUARY _____, in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

_____ SIXTEEN _____, and of the State of Illinois,

one hundred and _____ NINETY-EIGHTH _____.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR