



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
February 7, 2009**

WHEREAS, In the United States and in Pennsylvania, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a health crisis for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, at all stages of HIV/AIDS – from infection with HIV to death with AIDS – blacks (including African Americans) are disproportionately affected compared with members of other races and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, as the impact of the epidemic among African American communities has grown, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, county and municipal health departments, community based organizations, and African American communities have stepped up efforts to address the crisis; and

WHEREAS, NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY is a coordinated, annual effort centered on motivating individuals to get tested and know their HIV status, and on educating the entire community about the importance of HIV prevention, early detection and treatment; and

WHEREAS, HIV awareness and testing events will provide Pennsylvania's African American communities with important information they need to protect their health, protect their loved ones, and get involved; and

WHEREAS, collective action by everyone affected or infected by HIV is one of our most powerful weapons against this epidemic. Start today by calling the Pennsylvania Department of Health AIDS Factline at 1-800-662-6080 or visiting www.stophiv.com to locate a free and confidential HIV testing site near you.

THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim February 7, 2009, as BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY in Pennsylvania.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this seventh day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-third.

Edward G. Rendell

**EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor**