

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 36

By: Monson

A Resolution proclaiming March 9, 2002, "The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS Day" in the State of Oklahoma; encouraging religious congregations to become more knowledgeable about this disease; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, at the end of the year 2000, 36.1 million people were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, African Americans make up only twelve percent of the total population of the United States, but represent thirty-eight percent of total American AIDS cases; and

WHEREAS, through June 30, 2001, 522 HIV cases and 644 AIDS cases were reported in the African American community in the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the cost of treatment, the loss of productivity, and the general economic and social penalties caused by this disease have had a devastating impact on society. A societal and economic impact statement of its costs would be close to unbelievable; and

WHEREAS, the dire reality regarding the AIDS epidemic among Black people worldwide demands that our religious institutions join other community-based institutions in the struggle to stop the spread of AIDS and encourage services and resources for people who are affected; and

WHEREAS, March 3 through 9, 2002, marks the thirteenth year that the Oklahoma State Department of Health, a certified service partner of the Balm in Gilead, will observe "The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS." During this week they request religious congregations to pray for strength, courage, and wisdom for the fight against HIV and AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate proclaims March 9, 2002, "The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages religious congregations in Oklahoma to become more knowledgeable about AIDS and to participate actively in raising awareness and mobilizing the African American community in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to The Balm in Gilead and their 2002 Certified Service Partner, the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Adopted by the Senate the 7th day of March, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate