



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to be a leading public health crisis among the African American and African-born communities within the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 16 black men and 1 in 32 black women will be diagnosed with HIV infection at some point in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS: While the African American and African-born communities represent approximately 14 percent of the population of the United States, they now account for 44 percent of new HIV infections and 46 percent of people living with HIV; and

WHEREAS: While African American and African-born men, women, and children represent only 4 percent of the total population in Minnesota, they represent one-third (2,342 cases) of the 6,814 persons currently living with HIV in the state; and

WHEREAS: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide observance to call attention to the threat and the devastating impact HIV/AIDS has had on the African American and African-born communities, and to mobilize all African Americans and Africans to get educated, tested, treated, and involved with their local HIV/AIDS community efforts; and

WHEREAS: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which has been overseen by a dedicated Strategic Leadership Council made up of prominent organizations, will be observed for the 12th year and will mobilize community-based organizations and stakeholders under the 2012 campaign slogan, "I am my brother's keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS!"; and

WHEREAS: Local community-based organizations are hosting community events, exhibits, testing opportunities, and trainings as a call to action to recognize this day and its importance to the African American and African-born communities and all concerned citizens; and

WHEREAS: It is fitting that we join with these national and local groups to express our strong support for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and initiatives, prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the African American and the African-born communities, and provide treatment and care services for those living with the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim February 7, 2012 as:

BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota, and urge all community-based organizations, religious communities, civic groups, elected officials, governmental agencies, and local residents to support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate this occasion.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 23rd day of January.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE