

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 11-0261R  
(Resolution)**

---

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Henry, President Young, Councilmembers  
Middleton, D’Adamo, Kraft, Cole, Curran, Spector, Branch, Clarke, Stokes, Conaway,  
Welch, Reisinger  
Introduced and adopted: March 7, 2011

---

**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**In Support – National Week of Prayer  
for  
the Healing of AIDS – March 6 -12, 2011**

FOR the purpose of expressing support for *The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS*, the coming together of all people of faith to unite with purpose, compassion, and hope to educate every American about HIV prevention facts; to encourage and support HIV testing; to advocate for the compassionate care and treatment of those living with the disease in every community in America; and to love unconditionally all persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Recitals**

The mission of the Balm in Gilead, sponsor of the week of prayer, is to prevent diseases and to improve the health status of people in the African Diaspora by providing support to faith institutions in areas of program design, implementation, and evaluation that strengthens their capacity to deliver programs and services that contribute to the elimination of health disparities.

*The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS* is the inclusive, expansion of the highly successful Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, which concluded its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2009. The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS was the nation’s first national mobilization campaign that specifically focused on HIV/AIDS. The campaign has provided AIDS information to well-over 5 million African Americans through the engagement of Black congregations of every sector across the United States.

In the ACT!ON Newsletter, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director, in calling for a Heightened National Response to the epidemic, states: “As you already know all too well, the burden of HIV in African American communities is staggering. Here – in the United States – CDC estimates that 1 out of every 16 black men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetimes. One in 16. And 1 in 30 black women will be diagnosed with HIV. These statistics are certainly alarming and underscore the need for all of us to do more to fight the further spread of HIV and its effects in our communities.”

Baltimore City has a particular need to educate our citizens about HIV/AIDS. AIDS Action Baltimore, Inc., reports that in 2008, Baltimore-Towson ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among metropolitan areas for new reports of AIDS cases. Maryland ranked second among states and territories in AIDS cases, reporting 27.6 cases per 100,000 population. Statistics from 2006 indicate that 1 out of every 161 people in Maryland and 1 out of every 41 people in Baltimore City were living with

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 11-0261R**

1 HIV/AIDS. 6 new cases are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS every 4 hours in Maryland and every 8  
2 hours in Baltimore City.

3 *The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS* is particularly significant as it also  
4 encompasses the March 10, *National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*, a nationwide  
5 observance that encourages people to take action against the epidemic and raise awareness of its  
6 impact on women and girls – nearly 280,000 women in the United States. While men account for  
7 most HIV/AIDS cases, the impact on women is growing. In Baltimore, 86% of new HIV cases in  
8 2006 were among blacks, and 37% of new cases were women. Nationwide, black and Hispanic  
9 women represented 80% of new HIV and AIDS cases among women in 2005.

10 Statistics show that education works towards the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS.  
11 Once people know they are HIV positive, they are 8 more times less likely to practice risky  
12 behavior. People also need to know they are HIV positive so that they can take advantage of all  
13 treatments available. As AIDs Action holds: “Like all diseases, the sooner you treat HIV, the  
14 better your chances of survival.”

15 *The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS* is applauded as an invaluable effort by  
16 the faith-based community to contribute to the eradication of HIV/AIDS through prayer,  
17 education, advocacy, and service.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
19 Body supports *The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS*, the coming together of all  
20 people of faith to unite with purpose, compassion, and hope to educate every American about  
21 HIV prevention facts; encourages and supports HIV testing; advocates for the compassionate  
22 care and treatment of those living with the disease in every community in America; and  
23 advocates that people love unconditionally all persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
25 Executive Director, the Balm in Gilead, Inc., the Faith-Based Liaison for the Mayor’s Office of  
26 Neighborhood, the Inter-faith Coordinator for the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives,  
27 and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.