

Proclaim National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

African American and Latino women are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS, in both the County of Los Angeles and nationally. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of 2006 in the United States, the incidence rate of new HIV infections for African American women was more than 15 times the rate of white women.

Statistics in Los Angeles County are equally alarming. According to a report by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, as of 2006, women of color have been disproportionately affected and represent the majority of new HIV infections and AIDS cases among women in Los Angeles County. African American women have the highest annual AIDS rate of any racial/ethnic groups – nearly 5 times higher than the rate of Latinas and 14 times the rate of white women.

In addition, women have unique issues and special challenges that make it more difficult for them to prevent HIV or take care of themselves if they have HIV:

1. Many women with HIV/AIDS are low-income with limited access to health care compared to men;
2. Women are also less likely to be insured and may have fewer financial resources, less access to transportation and added responsibility of caring for families;
3. Women who have HIV can infect their babies during pregnancy, delivery or by breast-feeding;

- MORE-

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
MARCH 8, 2011
PAGE 2

4. Women lack control in relationships:
 - o Scared to say no to sex
 - o Scared to insist that their partner use a condom
 - o Unaware if their partner is engaged in unsafe sexual behavior which may put her at risk; and
5. Women may be caregivers for others and feel that they do not have the time to take care of themselves.

Due to these multiple factors, women are at increased risk for HIV infection, all of which can be impacted with open and honest dialogue and education, including issues of sex, sexuality, access to healthcare, and violence against women.

The Crenshaw Christian Center's National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day forum on Sunday, March 13, 2011 is a project of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and the HIV/AIDS Ministry of Crenshaw Christian Center. The objectives of the forum are twofold:

1. To increase knowledge and awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS among African American women; and
2. To establish a mechanism whereby community residents and members of the congregation of the Crenshaw Christian Center can voice their concerns about HIV/AIDS and strategize with AIDS service organization representatives on efforts to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS in the African American community.

It is fitting that we join with the Crenshaw Christian Center and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science to express our strong support for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among African American women and provide greater access to prevention, care, treatment and support services to those impacted by the disease.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim Thursday, March 10, 2011 as "National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" throughout Los Angeles County and urge local residents and County employees to support and participate in events planned on this day.

####