ASSEMBLY LABOR COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 199

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2023

The Assembly Labor Committee reports favorably Assembly Joint Resolution No. 199.

This joint resolution designates September of each year as "Workforce Development Month" to encourage awareness of and participation in workforce development programs in New Jersey. "Workforce Development" is the education, training, and career advancement of the workforce in New Jersey. The joint resolution also authorizes the Governor to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of the State to observe "Workforce Development Month" with appropriate activities and programs. Lastly, this resolution requires the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to take appropriate measures each year to publicize "Workforce Development Month."

Workforce Development is crucial to combatting unemployment and fostering a healthy economy in New Jersey and throughout the United States. Through workforce development programs, people are able to get the education and training needed to start new jobs or advance in their careers. Many jobs in New Jersey do not require a four year degree, but instead specialized education and skills training. Through workforce development programs, such as apprenticeships, New Jerseyans are able to get the training needed to pursue lucrative, in-demand careers. Workforce development programs also serve to aid people who have historically been underrepresented in certain fields. For example, more than two thirds of grantees through the Growing Apprenticeship In Nontraditional Sectors program are women and people of color, which is double the Statewide average. Women also make up 48 percent of apprentices through that program, more than five times the Statewide average. Workforce development programs are demonstrably effective at supporting the citizens and economy of New Jersey, and this joint resolution will provide increased annual attention to these vital programs.