

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 139

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO

District 13 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Designates first Monday in April of each year as “Sexual Assault Survivors Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the first Monday in April of each
2 year as “Sexual Assault Survivors Day” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Sexual assault can happen to any person regardless of age,
5 race, religion, geography, ability, appearance, sexual orientation,
6 and gender identity; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Sexual assault is sexual contact or behavior that occurs
8 without explicit consent; and

9 **WHEREAS**, A sexual assault occurs every 73 seconds in the United
10 States, and one in three women and one in six men experienced
11 some form of contact sexual assault in their lifetime; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Females ages 16-19 are four times more likely than the
13 general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual
14 assault, and female college students ages 18-24 are three times
15 more likely than women in general to experience a sexual assault;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, Over 1.8 million survivors of sexual assault live in New
18 Jersey, which is nearly 20 percent of the State’s population; and

19 **WHEREAS**, An act of sexual assault can impact the daily life of a
20 survivor, whether the assault happened recently or many years ago,
21 as each survivor reacts to sexual assault differently; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Sexual assault survivors can face short and long-term
23 physical health problems such as sexually transmitted infections
24 and diseases, chronic pain, and headaches, and serious mental
25 health problems like post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and
26 depression; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Survivors too often suffer in silence because the survivor
28 often fears further injury, is unwilling to experience further
29 humiliation, or lacks faith in the criminal justice system; and

30 **WHEREAS**, April of each year is recognized throughout the United
31 States as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in order to raise
32 public awareness about sexual harassment, assault, and abuse, and
33 to educate communities on how to prevent sexual assault; and

34 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that the Legislature designate the
35 first Monday in April of each year as “Sexual Assault Survivors
36 Day” to stand together with survivors of sexual assault as they
37 continue to heal and move forward and to recognize their incredible
38 strength, perseverance, and courage; now, therefore,

39
40 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
41 *State of New Jersey:*

42
43 1. The first Monday in April of each year is designated as
44 “Sexual Assault Survivors Day” in New Jersey to raise public
45 awareness about sexual assault, to educate communities on how to
46 prevent sexual assault, and to stand together with the survivors of
47 sexual assault.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Sexual assault survivors can face short and long-term physical health problems such as sexually transmitted infections and diseases, chronic pain, and headaches, and serious mental health problems like post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression. April of each year is recognized throughout the United States as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in order to raise public awareness about sexual harassment, assault, and abuse, and to educate communities on how to prevent sexual assault.