

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 241

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Designates October 23 of each year as “Aromatic L-amino Acid Decarboxylase Deficiency Awareness Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October 23 of each year as
2 “Aromatic L-amino Acid Decarboxylase Deficiency Awareness
3 Day”.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey supports protecting the health of
6 young children and vulnerable populations, as well as educating the
7 public and medical communities about rare diseases; and

8 **WHEREAS**, A rare disease is generally considered to be a disease that
9 affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States at any given
10 time; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Aromatic L-Amino Acid Decarboxylase (“AADC”)
12 Deficiency is a life-limiting, severely debilitating genetic
13 neurologic rare disease that significantly impacts a patient’s
14 development, motor skills, growth, cognition, and language skills;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, AADC Deficiency results from an inherited genetic
17 condition where patients lack the AADC enzyme that is required to
18 create dopamine; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Without dopamine, patients may never achieve motor-
20 skills milestones like holding their heads up, sitting, or standing,
21 nor will the patient develop the ability to communicate or perform
22 the most basic life needs; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Although some patients who are born with AADC
24 Deficiency may be asymptomatic at birth, AADC patients typically
25 experience symptoms within the first year of life such as
26 developmental delay and involuntary eye movements; and

27 **WHEREAS**, A patient suspected of having AADC Deficiency is
28 diagnosed with the disease through genetic and other biochemical
29 tests; and

30 **WHEREAS**, AADC Deficiency affects approximately 1 in 100,000
31 people in the United States; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Caregivers of patients with AADC Deficiency are often
33 responsible for the overall care of the patient due to the debilitating
34 nature of this disease and patients may need life-long care; and

35 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey can raise awareness of AADC
36 Deficiency in the public and medical communities within this State
37 in order to assist individuals suffering from AADC and their
38 caregivers; now, therefore,

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

42
43 1. October 23 of each year is designated as “Aromatic L-amino
44 Acid Decarboxylase Deficiency Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

45
46 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
47 proclamation and call upon public officials, private organizations,
48 and all citizens of this State to observe “Aromatic L-amino Acid

1 Decarboxylase Deficiency Awareness Day” with appropriate
2 awareness activities and programs.

3

4 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 This resolution establishes October 23 of each year as “Aromatic
10 L-Amino Acid Decarboxylase Deficiency Day” in New Jersey.

11 The State of New Jersey supports protecting the health of
12 vulnerable populations and young children, as well as educating the
13 public and medical communities about rare diseases. A rare disease
14 is generally considered to be a disease that affects fewer than
15 200,000 people in the United States at any given time. Aromatic L-
16 Amino Acid Decarboxylase (“AADC”) Deficiency is a life-limiting,
17 severely debilitating genetic neurologic rare disease that
18 significantly impacts a patient’s development, motor skills, growth,
19 cognition, and language skills. While some patients who are born
20 with AADC Deficiency may be asymptomatic at birth, AADC
21 patients typically experience symptoms within the first year of life
22 such as developmental delay and involuntary eye movements.
23 Caregivers of patients with AADC Deficiency are often responsible
24 for the overall care of the patient due to the debilitating nature of
25 this disease and patients may need life-long care. The State of New
26 Jersey can raise awareness of AADC Deficiency in the public and
27 medical communities within this State in order to support
28 individuals with AADC Deficiency and their caregivers by
29 designating this awareness day.