

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 50

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates April of each year as “Minority Health Month” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April of each year as “Minority
2 Health Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Health disparities are differences in the incidence,
5 prevalence, and mortality of a disease or condition among different
6 populations; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Research suggests that health disparities result from the
8 interplay of genetic variations, environmental factors, and
9 behaviors; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Despite notable improvements in the overall health of
11 Americans during the past two decades, there continues to be
12 striking disparities in the prevalence of certain diseases and
13 conditions among racial and ethnical minorities, including African
14 Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives,
15 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders;
16 and
17 **WHEREAS**, Cardiovascular disease, which continues to be the leading
18 cause of death in the United States, disproportionately affects racial
19 and ethnic minorities and accounts for approximately one-third of
20 the disparity in potential life-years lost between African Americans
21 and Caucasian Americans; and
22 **WHEREAS**, For adults over age 20, non-Hispanic African Americans,
23 Mexican-Americans, Native Americans, and Alaska Natives
24 experience a higher prevalence of diabetes than non-Hispanic white
25 Americans; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Certain racial and ethnic groups have an increased risk of
27 developing or dying from particular cancers, and African
28 Americans have higher death rates than all other racial and ethnic
29 groups for many types of cancer; and
30 **WHEREAS**, The HIV/AIDS epidemic predominantly affects African
31 Americans, who in 2007 accounted for nearly half of all Americans
32 living with HIV/AIDS despite comprising only 13 percent of the
33 U.S. population; and
34 **WHEREAS**, National Minority Health Month is celebrated every year
35 in April to raise awareness about health disparities among different
36 racial and ethnic populations in the United States; and
37 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper, and in the interests of the
38 people of New Jersey and the nation, to designate April of each
39 year as “Minority Health Month” in New Jersey and to encourage
40 the citizens of this State to join in the observance of the month and
41 raise awareness of health disparities impacting racial and ethnic
42 minorities; now, therefore,
43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
45 *State of New Jersey:*
46
47 1. April of each year shall be designated “Minority Health
48 Month” in New Jersey.

AJR50 TIMBERLAKE

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2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe “Minority Health Month” in New Jersey.

5 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This resolution designates April of each year as “Minority Health Month” in New Jersey to coincide with National Minority Health Month, which is celebrated every year in April to raise awareness about health disparities among different racial and ethnic populations in the United States. Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, and mortality of a disease or condition among different populations. Research suggests that health disparities result from the interplay of genetic variations, environmental factors, and behaviors. Despite notable improvements in the overall health of Americans during the past two decades, there continues to be striking disparities in the prevalence of certain diseases and conditions among racial and ethnical minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.