

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 56

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)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Designates October of each year “Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of October of each
2 year as “Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The death of an infant causes irreparable pain and
5 suffering to families in New Jersey and across the United States;
6 and
7 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is committed to engaging in research and
8 outreach that aims to bring awareness to infant mortality and its
9 devastating consequences; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The infant mortality rate in the United States has declined
11 since 1995, but is still higher than the infant mortality rate in other
12 developed nations, with 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The infant mortality rate in New Jersey is lower than the
14 national average, with 4.45 infant deaths per 1,000 births; and
15 **WHEREAS**, There are numerous causes of infant mortality, including
16 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, commonly known as “SIDS”; and
17 **WHEREAS**, SIDS occurs when an infant, under the age of one, dies of
18 unexplained causes while sleeping; and
19 **WHEREAS**, The number of infants who die from SIDS every year has
20 continued to decline since the early 1990s, when the American
21 Academy of Pediatrics recommended that infants sleep on their
22 backs; and
23 **WHEREAS**, This decline has continued into the 21st century, with a 29
24 percent decline in the SIDS infant mortality rate between 2005 and
25 2014; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Even with this decline, SIDS was the fourth leading cause
27 of death in infants under the age of one in the United States as of
28 2017, with approximately 1,400 deaths reportedly caused by SIDS;
29 and
30 **WHEREAS**, Racial disparities in the rates of SIDS and infant mortality
31 continue to persist; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Infants born to African-American, Native American or
33 Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and
34 Hispanic women experienced higher rates of SIDS and overall
35 infant mortality in 2017 than infants born to Caucasian and Asian
36 women; and
37 **WHEREAS**, In 2017, the SIDS rates for infants born to African-
38 American and Native American or Alaska Native women were 69.7
39 and 76.8 deaths per 100,000 live births, respectively, compared to
40 the SIDS rate for infants born to Caucasian women at 34.5 deaths
41 per 100,000 live births; and
42 **WHEREAS**, It is important to support research efforts into the causes of
43 SIDS and best practices for reducing and preventing SIDS; and
44 **WHEREAS**, It is important to promote outreach aimed at educating
45 families on the causes of SIDS; and
46 **WHEREAS**, “Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month” aims
47 to inform the public about causes of SIDS and best practices for
48 reducing and preventing SIDS; now, therefore,

