

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 17

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen Wimberly, Holley, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson,
Speight, Pinkin, Assemblyman Conaway and Assemblywoman Jasey**

SYNOPSIS

Declares violence a public health crisis.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** declaring violence a public health
2 crisis.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Violence is a significant problem in the United States that
5 affects people in all stages of life, from infants to the elderly, and is
6 linked to many chronic diseases, obesity, substance abuse and other
7 physical, reproductive, and mental health consequences; and

8 **WHEREAS**, As reported by the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention (CDC), nationwide, more than 16,250 people were the
10 victims of homicide and more than 38,360 people took their own
11 lives in one year, according to the most recent data available; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Violence also affects youth in the United States with
13 homicide as the second leading cause of death among persons 15 to
14 24 years old, according to the CDC; and

15 **WHEREAS**, In addition, there are many victims of gun violence in this
16 country as an average of 31,537 people die per year from gun
17 violence and, on average, an additional 71,386 survive gun related
18 injuries; and

19 **WHEREAS**, According to the most recent data available, in this State
20 alone, there are over 2,700 violent crimes committed per year and
21 there are 380 murders per year, meaning there is one murder every
22 23 hours and three minutes; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The CDC has found that although there are a significant
24 number of violent deaths in this country each year, there are many
25 more individuals who survive violence and are left with permanent
26 physical and emotional scars and that this violence erodes
27 communities by reducing productivity, decreasing property values,
28 and disrupting social services; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Exposure to youth violence and school violence can lead to
30 a wide array of negative health behaviors and outcomes, including
31 alcohol use, drug use, and suicide. In addition, depression, anxiety,
32 and other psychological problems can result from exposure to
33 school violence; and

34 **WHEREAS**, The foregoing findings demonstrate the prevalence of
35 violence and the detrimental effects that violence has on the citizens
36 of this nation and State; now, therefore,

37
38 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
39 *Jersey:*

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41 1. This House declares violence a public health crisis.

42
43 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
44 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
45 Commissioner of Health and the Attorney General.