

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 22, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Designates February 4th of each year as “Women and Girls in Sports Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

SJR112 TESTA

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating February 4th of each year as
2 “Women and Girls in Sports Day” in New Jersey.

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4 **WHEREAS**, Sport and physical activity play critical roles in the lives of
5 all people and are essential for good physical and emotional health;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, Opportunities in sports were traditionally open to men
8 only, however the 20th and 21st centuries saw women and girls
9 strive to increasingly participate in sports despite societal obstacles;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, Gender disparities continue to exist in sports and less prize
12 money, sponsorships, facilities, equipment, and athletic
13 opportunities are allocated for women and girl sports; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Sports are essential to teaching girls important life skills
15 which are drivers of gender equality such as confidence, resilience,
16 initiative, self-reliance, self-discipline, leadership, and teamwork;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, Physical activity is key to the development of healthy
19 bodies and minds and sports encourage women and girls to become
20 and remain physically active; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Women’s sports have produced successful and inspiring
22 athletes who serve as good role models to fans of all ages and
23 genders such as New Jersey natives Carli Lloyd and Laurie
24 Hernandez; and

25 **WHEREAS**, The considerable achievements of women and girls in
26 sports deserve recognition and women’s fight against gender
27 inequality deserves awareness; and

28 **WHEREAS**, February 4th is nationally recognized as “National Girls
29 and Women in Sports Day”; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey can recognize women and girls’
31 contribution to sports and further encourage women and girls to
32 participate in sports and physical activity and promote gender
33 equality by designing February 4th as “Women and Girls in Sports
34 Day” in New Jersey; now, therefore,

35

36 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
37 *State of New Jersey:*

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39 1. February 4th of each year is designated as “Women and
40 Girls in Sports Day” in the State of New Jersey to recognize and
41 celebrate women and girls’ contribution to sports.

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43 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
44 proclamation recognizing February 4th as “Women and Girls in
45 Sports Day” in New Jersey, and call upon public officials and
46 citizens of this State to observe the day with appropriate activities
47 and programs.

1 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This joint resolution designates February 4th of each year as
7 “Women and Girls in Sports Day”. Opportunities in sports were
8 traditionally open to only men and women were discouraged from
9 participating in and taking an interest in sports. The 20th and 21st
10 centuries saw women strive to increasingly participate in sports,
11 however gender disparities continue to exist as less support and
12 resources are provided to women’s sports in comparison to men’s
13 sports. This lack of investment has led to issues such as pay
14 disparities and the unequal allocation of facilities and equipment for
15 women’s sports. In spite of these inequalities, women have
16 contributed significantly to sports and inspiring athletes such as
17 New Jersey natives Carli Lloyd and Laurie Hernandez make
18 excellent role models to fans of all ages and genders. Women and
19 girls deserve recognition for their contributions to sports and an
20 awareness of their fight for gender equality.

21 It should be further acknowledged that sports are essential in the
22 lives of girls because participation in sports teach important life
23 skills, which later empower them as women to stand up against
24 gender inequalities both in sports and in their daily lives. Physical
25 activity is necessary for good overall health and sports are
26 important because they encourage women and girls to become and
27 remain physically active.