

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 53

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Designates March of each year as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of March of each year
2 as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD) is a disease that causes
5 abnormal cell growth of the arterial wall. FMD can lead to areas of
6 narrowing (stenosis), beading, aneurysms, and dissections (tears) of
7 the arterial wall; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Until recently there has been very little progress in
9 understanding the disease since it was first diagnosed in 1938.
10 There is no known cause or cure for the disease and there are no set
11 protocols to treat the disease; and

12 **WHEREAS**, FMD has always been considered and is still classified as a
13 rare disease. Many researchers now believe FMD is an under-
14 diagnosed disease. Some of the data suggest that four-five percent
15 of the population may be affected by the disease; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Ninety percent of the patients affected by FMD are
17 women, but men and children also get the disease. There are
18 different classifications of FMD, the two most common types are
19 medial fibroplasia and intimal fibroplasia. Unlike the adult
20 population, children tend to be diagnosed with intimal fibroplasia,
21 which can be more aggressive. Some patients present with both
22 types of the disease. There is no understanding of why there are
23 differences; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Individuals and families affected by FMD often experience
25 problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining
26 accurate and timely diagnosis, and optimal treatment options; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Many rare diseases are relatively well-known, but FMD is
28 not well-known by the public or medical community. Patients and
29 their families must bear a large share of the burden for things such
30 as educating others, including their own physicians, and raising
31 funds for awareness and research; and

32 **WHEREAS**, The Fibromuscular Dysplasia Society of America
33 (FMDSA) was founded in March 2003. Over the past 13 years, this
34 association has been active and successful with many programs
35 including public and physician awareness, patient support, and
36 engaging and working with researchers from around the world; and

37 **WHEREAS**, FMDSA is funding the United States Registry for FMD.
38 Until the recent data was released, it was thought that 75 percent of
39 FMD cases affected the renal arteries, but that is now known to be
40 inaccurate. It is also very common to have a five year delay from
41 onset of symptoms to diagnosis; and

42 **WHEREAS**, There is still much needed awareness and research of the
43 disease. FMD patients present with the same symptoms that much
44 of the general population is affected with, such as hypertension,
45 headaches, and dizziness. Others present with transient ischemic
46 attack or stroke, dissection (tear) of an artery, aneurysm, swooshing
47 noise in the ear, and renal infraction. Children can present with
48 basic symptoms such as high blood pressure, headaches, insomnia,

1 fatigue, and abdominal pain. Misdiagnoses of FMD can lead to
2 severe consequences and disability; and

3 **WHEREAS**, FMDSA is organizing a global observance of FMD.
4 During the month of March each year, patients, medical
5 professionals, and researchers, are joining together to focus
6 attention on FMD as a public health issue during that month; now,
7 therefore,

8
9 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
10 *State of New Jersey:*

11
12 1. The month of March of each year is designated as
13 “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in the State of New
14 Jersey to foster an awareness and understanding of Fibromuscular
15 Dysplasia.

16
17 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
18 calling upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe
19 “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” with appropriate
20 activities and programs.

21
22 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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25 STATEMENT

26
27 This joint resolution designates the month of March of each year
28 as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in order to
29 promote an awareness and understanding of the disease.
30 Fibromuscular dysplasia, commonly referred to as FMD, is a
31 disease that causes abnormal cellular development in the arterial
32 wall, which can lead to the narrowing or tearing of arteries. FMD is
33 considered a rare disease that currently has no cure or standard
34 protocol to treat it.

35 The joint resolution also respectfully requests the Governor to
36 issue an annual proclamation calling upon public officials and
37 citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate
38 activities and programs.