

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 54

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Permanently designates May as “Preeclampsia Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating the month of May
2 as “Preeclampsia Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Preeclampsia is a life-threatening disorder of pregnancy
5 and the postpartum period and is related to high blood pressure; and
6 **WHEREAS**, The disorder takes the life of 76,000 women and 500,000
7 infants every year worldwide; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Risks to mothers include seizures, stroke, organ damage,
9 and death and risks to infants include premature birth and death;
10 and
11 **WHEREAS**, From 1998 through 2006, 56 percent more African-
12 American women had preeclampsia than Caucasian women, and
13 African-American women are four times more likely to die as a
14 result of the disorder; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Symptoms of preeclampsia can be mistaken for changes in
16 a woman’s body that normally take place during pregnancy; and
17 **WHEREAS**, It is critical for all pregnant women to understand and
18 recognize the warning signs of preeclampsia and seek medical
19 attention if they experience them; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Signs of preeclampsia, which are often measured by a
21 healthcare provider, include: high blood pressure; protein in the
22 urine; swelling of the face and hands; weight gain of more than five
23 pounds per week; stomach pain; persistent headaches, even after
24 taking medication; changes in vision; nausea or vomiting,
25 especially late in pregnancy; and difficulty breathing; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Women who have had preeclampsia are at an increased
27 risk of developing high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes,
28 anxiety, postpartum depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder;
29 and
30 **WHEREAS**, While it is unknown whether the risk of developing these
31 diseases is caused by preeclampsia or because the women were
32 already predisposed, these diseases first emerge in the years
33 following a complicated pregnancy; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Research efforts have produced medical breakthroughs
35 that may lead to a better understanding of the causes of
36 preeclampsia, improved diagnostic techniques, and the discovery of
37 new methods to treat women with the disorder; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Raising public awareness about preeclampsia and the
39 causes and long-term effects of the disorder could encourage the
40 research community’s continued search for a cure and development
41 of treatment and prevention strategies for preeclampsia and other
42 hypertensive disorders of pregnancy; now, therefore,
43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
45 *State of New Jersey:*
46
47 1. The month of May shall be permanently designated as
48 “Preeclampsia Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey in

1 order to raise public awareness about preeclampsia and the causes
2 and long-term effects of the disorder and encourage the research
3 community's search for a cure and development of treatment and
4 prevention strategies for preeclampsia and other hypertensive
5 disorders of pregnancy.

6
7 2. The Governor is respectively requested to annually issue a
8 proclamation recognizing the month of May as "Preeclampsia
9 Awareness Month" in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials
10 and the citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate
11 activities and programs.

12
13 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

14
15
16 **STATEMENT**

17
18 This resolution permanently designates the month of May as
19 "Preeclampsia Awareness Month" in the State of New Jersey in
20 order to raise public awareness about preeclampsia and the causes
21 and long-term effects of the disorder and encourage the research
22 community's continued search for a cure and development of
23 treatment and prevention strategies for preeclampsia and other
24 hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.