

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 186

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Designates second week of November of each year as “Urinary Incontinence Awareness Week” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the second week of November of
 2 each year as “Urinary Incontinence Awareness Week” in New
 3 Jersey.

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, More than 26 million people live with urinary incontinence
 6 in the United States; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Urinary incontinence is the loss of bladder control, or
 8 being unable to control urination. It is a common condition and can
 9 range from being a minor problem to something that greatly affects
 10 daily life; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The following persons are at high risk of being diagnosed
 12 with urinary incontinence: women who have experienced
 13 pregnancy, childbirth, or menopause; the elderly; men with prostate
 14 problems; persons with certain health problems, such as diabetes,
 15 obesity, or long-lasting constipation; smokers; and persons with
 16 birth defects affecting the structure of the urinary tract; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Urinary incontinence has a multitude of treatments,
 18 ranging from medical to non-medical, preventative to protective,
 19 and invasive to non-invasive; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Contrary to common myth, urinary incontinence is
 21 worsened by limiting fluid intake. Low fluid intake causes bladder
 22 irritation, further complicating issues. Furthermore, lowering fluid
 23 intake reduces the overall capacity of the bladder, which lessens the
 24 ability of the bladder to retain fluid; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Though urinary incontinence is not life threatening, it does
 26 threaten a person’s social and working lives and has a severe
 27 adverse effect on quality of life. Individuals afflicted with urinary
 28 incontinence often find their life dictated by their accidents, fearing
 29 embarrassment in front of friends and co-workers; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The annual cost of adult urinary incontinence products in
 31 the United States currently exceeds \$1 billion and that number is
 32 expected to grow as the general population ages; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Many senior citizens are on fixed incomes and suffer great
 34 hardship because they must spend significant amounts of their
 35 incomes on urinary incontinence products; and

36 **WHEREAS**, An overriding concern of senior citizens is finding ways to
 37 continue living in their own homes as long as possible and urinary
 38 incontinence is a leading cause of institutionalization of the elderly;
 39 and

40 **WHEREAS**, It is proper and fitting for the Legislature to formally
 41 recognize the suffering of those with urinary incontinence by
 42 bringing awareness to this subject; now, therefore,

43
 44 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 45 *of New Jersey:*

46
 47 1. The second week of November of each year is designated as
 48 “Urinary Incontinence Awareness Week” in New Jersey.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Though urinary incontinence is not life threatening, it does threaten a person's social and working lives and has a severe adverse effect on quality of life. Individuals afflicted with urinary incontinence often find their life dictated by their accidents, fearing embarrassment in front of friends and co-workers. The annual cost of adult urinary incontinence products in the United States currently exceeds \$1 billion and that number is expected to grow as the general population ages. Many senior citizens are on fixed incomes and suffer great hardship because they must spend significant amounts of their incomes on urinary incontinence products. An overriding concern of senior citizens is finding ways to continue living in their own homes as long as possible and urinary incontinence is a leading cause of institutionalization of the elderly.