

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 95

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 19, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman **HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman **ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Pinkin

SYNOPSIS

Designates August of each year as “Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease Awareness and Improvement Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/7/2016)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** declaring August of each year as “Adult
2 Vaccine Preventable Disease Awareness and Improvement
3 Month.”
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Vaccines have aided in reducing the burden of widespread
6 and often fatal diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and
7 healthier lives while reducing health care costs; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Although much attention has been paid to the importance
9 of childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack of awareness of
10 adult-recommended vaccines, and a misperception that
11 immunizations are unnecessary for healthy adults; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs), including
13 diseases such as influenza and pneumonia, are a critical public
14 health issue in the United States; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Influenza and pneumonia represent the seventh-leading
16 cause of death among American adults age 65 and older; and

17 **WHEREAS**, As the population across the United States continues to
18 age, the impact of VPDs on adults will likely increase; and

19 **WHEREAS**, For those with chronic health conditions, the complications
20 from adult VPDs can include long-term illness, hospitalization, and
21 death; and

22 **WHEREAS**, One way to potentially reduce adult VPDs is increased
23 compliance rates for adult immunization; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
25 (CDC) currently recommends a variety of vaccines for adults who
26 are age 18 and older; these recommendations include both universal
27 vaccination recommendations and recommendations targeted to
28 specific populations, such as people with specific risk factors for
29 certain diseases, people who belong to certain age groups, and
30 adults who may have missed certain childhood vaccines; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The CDC has consistently found adult vaccination
32 compliance rates to be below target levels; as part of its Healthy
33 People 2020 goal, the CDC seeks to increase compliance for
34 influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination in adults; and

35 **WHEREAS**, To highlight the value of immunization across the lifespan,
36 from infancy through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, and to
37 promote outreach and education efforts, August of each year is
38 recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Increasing adult immunization rates requires a continuous
40 commitment from health care providers and government health
41 agencies to help adults understand the importance of adult
42 immunization, recommend they receive appropriate vaccines, and
43 provide appropriate education and outreach to raise awareness
44 among both health care professionals and the public concerning the
45 importance of increasing adult vaccination rates and reducing the
46 number of incidents of VPD; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

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4 1. August of each year is designated as “Adult Vaccine
5 Preventable Disease Awareness and Improvement Month” in New
6 Jersey to increase public awareness of the importance of adults
7 receiving vaccines against preventable diseases and to promote
8 outreach and education efforts concerning adult vaccination.

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10 2. The Department of Health shall take appropriate action to
11 promote Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease Awareness and
12 Improvement Month, including urging health care practitioners to
13 discuss vaccines for preventable diseases with adult patients and
14 adopting appropriate programs and initiatives to raise public
15 awareness of the importance of adult vaccination.

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17 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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22 This joint resolution designates August of each year as “Adult
23 Vaccine Preventable Disease Awareness and Improvement Month”
24 in New Jersey to increase awareness of the importance of adults
25 receiving vaccines against preventable diseases and to promote
26 outreach and education efforts. Although there is a strong public
27 awareness of the importance of childhood immunization, it can be
28 equally important for adults to obtain vaccines against preventable
29 diseases such as influenza and pneumonia. Increasing awareness of
30 the importance of adult vaccination may help improve the health of
31 both individual adults and the public at large.

32

33 The resolution requires the Department of Health to take
34 appropriate action to promote Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease
35 Awareness and Improvement Month, including urging health care
36 practitioners to discuss vaccines for preventable diseases with adult
37 patients and adopting appropriate programs and initiatives to raise
public awareness of the importance of adult vaccination.