

[First Reprint]

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

## No. 33

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 15, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator SEAN T. KEAN**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates August of each year as “Immunization Awareness Month.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on May 27, 2010, with amendments.



1 A **JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of August each year  
2 as <sup>1</sup>["Immunization Awareness Month" in New Jersey]  
3 "Immunization Awareness Month"<sup>1</sup>.

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective  
6 public health tools available for preventing disease and death; and

7 **WHEREAS**, National immunization levels are at or near record highs  
8 for most vaccines and most vaccine-preventable diseases have been  
9 reduced by 99% or more; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Individuals and health care providers in every community  
11 have a responsibility to ensure that everyone is immunized on time  
12 and receives the full schedule of vaccinations required to protect  
13 them from serious diseases; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable  
15 diseases circulate in our communities and can infect people who are  
16 not protected by vaccines; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Maintaining high immunization rates protects the entire  
18 community by interrupting transmission of disease-causing viruses  
19 or bacteria; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Every year in New Jersey approximately 100,000 babies  
21 are born, each one of whom deserves on-time immunizations to  
22 protect them against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age  
23 two; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Each year approximately 70,000 young adults will go to a  
25 New Jersey college for the first time and are at risk of acquiring  
26 bacterial meningococcal disease and other diseases unless they have  
27 been appropriately immunized as adolescents; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Annually 50,000 to 70,000 adults die in the United States  
29 from vaccine-preventable diseases; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Health care providers play a critical role in educating their  
31 patients about the importance of immunization and ensuring that  
32 their patients are fully immunized; and

33 **WHEREAS**, A month profiling the importance of immunization in New  
34 Jersey would increase public awareness that many diseases are  
35 effectively and safely prevented or controlled by immunization,  
36 thereby reducing the burden of illness in our communities; now,  
37 therefore,

38  
39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
40 *State of New Jersey:*

41  
42 1. The month of August <sup>1</sup>of<sup>1</sup> each year is designated as  
43 "Immunization Awareness Month" in New Jersey in order to  
44 <sup>1</sup>encourage the citizens and residents of this State to recognize the

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted May 27, 2010.

1 importance of this month, and to talk to their health care providers  
2 to ensure that their family's immunizations are up-to-date] promote  
3 public awareness about the safety and effectiveness of  
4 immunizations and their importance for preventing disease and  
5 death<sup>1</sup>.

6  
7 2. The Governor <sup>1</sup>[is requested to] shall<sup>1</sup> annually issue a  
8 proclamation calling upon public <sup>1</sup>[entities and private  
9 organizations entrusted with the health of] officials and<sup>1</sup> the  
10 citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate <sup>1</sup>[events  
11 and]<sup>1</sup> activities <sup>1</sup>and programs<sup>1</sup>.

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