

P.L. 2019, Joint Resolution No. 3, *approved March 28, 2019*
Senate Joint Resolution No. 120 (*First Reprint*)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March 22 to March 28 of each
2 year as “Doula Appreciation Week” in New Jersey.
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4 **WHEREAS**, Doulas are trained professionals who provide continuous
5 physical, emotional, and informational support to mothers before,
6 during, and shortly after childbirth; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Thousands of doulas are currently practicing in more
8 than 50 countries worldwide, including in all 50 U.S. states; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Leading professional societies such as the American
10 College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Society for Maternal-
11 Fetal Medicine, and agencies ¹**[like]** including¹ the ¹federal¹
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the ¹federal¹ Health
13 Resources and Services Administration, and the ¹federal¹
14 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have recognized the
15 well-established benefits of doula services; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Research has demonstrated that support from a doula is
17 associated with lower ¹**[caesarian]** cesarean¹ section rates, fewer
18 obstetric interventions, fewer complications during and after
19 childbirth, decreased use of pain medication, shorter labor hours,
20 and higher scores on the APGAR test, which indicates how well
21 the baby is doing outside the womb; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Since 2011, World Doula Week has taken place
23 annually from March 22 to March 28 to empower doulas all over
24 the world to improve the physiological, social, emotional, and
25 psychological health of women, newborns, and families in birth
26 and in the postpartum period; and
27 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper, and within the public
28 interest, to designate March 22 to March 28 of each year as
29 “Doula Appreciation Week” in New Jersey and to encourage the
30 citizens of this State to join the observance of this week and
31 ¹express¹ appreciation for the doulas who provide support to
32 mothers in this State; now, therefore,
33
34 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
35 *State of New Jersey:*
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37 1. March 22 to March 28 of each year shall be designated
38 “Doula Appreciation Week” in New Jersey.

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted March 4, 2019.

SJR120 [1R]

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1 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
2 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State
3 to observe “Doula Appreciation Week” with appropriate activities
4 and programs.

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6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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11 Designates March 22 to March 28 of each year as “Doula
12 Appreciation Week” in NJ.