

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 98

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado, Greenstein, A.R.Bucco, Brown, Diegnan, Pennacchio, Ruiz, Singleton, Turner, Thompson, Gill, Sweeney, Bateman and O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Designates September of each year as “Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/1/2019)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September of each year as
2 “Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, A brain aneurysm is a bulging, weakened area in the wall
5 of an artery in the brain, resulting in an abnormal widening or
6 ballooning; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Over six million Americans, or roughly one in 50 people,
8 have unruptured brain aneurysms, meaning they have aneurysms
9 that have not leaked blood or burst open; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Although unruptured brain aneurysms typically do not
11 manifest symptoms, an unruptured aneurysm may become large
12 enough to produce pressure on the brain tissue or adjacent nerves,
13 potentially resulting in difficulty with vision, numbness or
14 weakness of an arm or leg, difficulty with memory or speech, or
15 seizures; and
16 **WHEREAS**, A brain aneurysm ruptures when it leaks or busts open,
17 causing blood to be released into the subarachnoid space between
18 the brain and the skull; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Symptoms for ruptured brain aneurysms include sudden
20 and severe headache, often described as the “worst headache of
21 someone’s life”; sudden sensitivity to light; neck stiffness; sharp
22 pain behind or above one eye; blurred or double vision; numbness
23 and tightening in the face; sudden loss of consciousness; confusion
24 or change of mental status; seizure; perceived “gunshot” noise or
25 extremely loud “boom”; drooping eyelid; and nausea and vomiting;
26 and
27 **WHEREAS**, In the event of the sudden, “worst headache of life”, it is
28 imperative that a person go to the hospital immediately; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Each year, more than 40,000 people in the United States
30 suffer from ruptured brain aneurysms and 50 percent of these
31 people die within days. Of the 50 percent who survive, one-third
32 will die within months as a result of complications, one-third will
33 suffer from major neurological deficits, and one-third will be able
34 to return to a way of life similar to that prior to the rupture; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Knowing risk factors and methods of early detection and
36 treatment can save lives as aneurysms can often be treated; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Risk factors for developing brain aneurysms include
38 cigarette or drug use, concussions, disorders of the body’s structural
39 proteins, fibromuscular dysplasia, chronic hypertension, family
40 history of brain aneurysms, and polycystic kidney disease; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Through imaging screening tests such as the computerized
42 tomography (CT) scan, the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test,
43 and the cerebral arteriogram, individuals at high risk of a brain
44 aneurysm can be identified easily; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Treatment options for a brain aneurysm include surgical
46 clipping to close off the aneurysm; endovascular coiling to disrupt
47 blood flow in the aneurysm and seal it off from the artery; and flow
48 diverters to stop blood movement within the aneurysm and
49 stimulate the body to heal the site; now, therefore,

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

3

4 1. September of each year is designated as “Brain Aneurysm
5 Awareness Month” in New Jersey in order to raise awareness of the
6 signs of and risks associated with brain aneurysms, methods of
7 screening and early detection, ways to prevent brain aneurysms, and
8 treatment options.

9

10 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
11 proclamation recognizing September as “Brain Aneurysm
12 Awareness Month” in New Jersey, and call upon public officials
13 and the citizens of this State to observe the day with appropriate
14 activities and programs.

15

16 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

17

18

19

STATEMENT

20

21 This joint resolution designates September of each year as “Brain
22 Aneurysm Awareness Month” in New Jersey to bring awareness to
23 the signs of and risks associated with brain aneurysms, methods of
24 screening and early detection, and prevention and treatment options.

25 Over six million Americans have unruptured brain aneurysms.
26 Many people may be unaware they have an aneurysm as unruptured
27 brain aneurysms typically do not manifest symptoms. However,
28 large unruptured aneurysms may show certain symptoms.

29 Ruptured brain aneurysms annually affect 40,000 people in the
30 United States, with 50 percent of those people dying within days.
31 Of those who survive ruptured brain aneurysms, one-third will die
32 within months, one-third will suffer from major neurological
33 deficits, and one-third will be able to return to a way of life similar
34 to that prior to the rupture. Symptoms for a ruptured brain aneurysm
35 include sudden and severe headache, often described as the “worst
36 headache of someone’s life;” sensitivity to light; neck stiffness;
37 sharp pain behind or above one eye; blurred or double vision;
38 numbness and tightening in the face; loss of consciousness;
39 confusion or change of mental status; seizure; perceived “gunshot”
40 noise or extremely loud “boom;” drooping eyelid; and nausea and
41 vomiting. Notably, in the event of the sudden, “worst headache of
42 life,” it is imperative that a person go to the hospital immediately.

43 Knowing the symptoms, risk factors, early detection methods,
44 and treatment options for brain aneurysms can save lives.