

ASSEMBLY, No. 2781

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1997

By Assemblywoman WRIGHT and Assemblyman KRAMER

1 AN ACT permanently designating the first Sunday in May as "Loyal  
2 Heart Award Day" in New Jersey.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. There are more than two million people in the State with  
9 disabilities whose civil rights are guaranteed under the "Americans  
10 with Disabilities Act of 1990"; and

11 b. A multitude of caregivers support persons with disabilities and  
12 assist them to achieve their fullest potential; and

13 c. An awareness of these caregivers should be included among the  
14 issues, expanded communications and awareness promotions that  
15 inform the public about the needs and concerns of persons with  
16 disabilities; and

17 d. Federal, state, county and local governments have implemented  
18 inclusionary programs for persons with disabilities that they could not  
19 or would not be able to attend without the loving care and assistance  
20 of those who aid them; and

21 e. The "Loyal Heart Award" was initiated in 1994 by Elayne  
22 Hyman Risley, chairwoman of the Middlesex County Chapter  
23 Coalition on Women and Disabilities, to recognize the contributions  
24 made by these selfless individuals who give their time and  
25 consideration to care for persons with disabilities; and

26 f. In order to promote a spirit of community and to ensure  
27 continued public recognition of the important role these Loyal Heart  
28 Award recipients and all caregivers, who are often family members,  
29 friends, neighbors, health care professionals or aides, play in the life of  
30 persons with disabilities, it is only fitting that an annual Loyal Heart  
31 Award Day be celebrated during Human Potential Week.

32

33 2. The first Sunday in May is permanently designated "Loyal Heart  
34 Award Day" in New Jersey to recognize and honor the loyal efforts of  
35 caregivers in helping persons with disabilities achieve their fullest  
36 potential.

1       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6       This bill permanently designates the first Sunday in May as Loyal  
7 Heart Award Day in New Jersey in order to honor and provide public  
8 recognition to caregivers of persons with disabilities who give their  
9 time, care and consideration to help people with disabilities achieve  
10 their fullest potential.

11

12

13

14

15       \_\_\_\_\_

16 Permanently designates first Sunday in May as "Loyal Heart Award  
Day" in New Jersey.