

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 210

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Designates September of each year as “Alopecia Areata Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September of each year as
2 “Alopecia Areata Awareness Month.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Alopecia areata is a common autoimmune skin disease,
5 causing hair loss on the scalp, face, and sometimes on other areas of
6 the body; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The disorder affects as many as 6.8 million people in the
8 United States, with a lifetime risk of 2.1 percent; and
9 **WHEREAS**, People of all ages, both sexes, and all ethnic groups can
10 develop alopecia areata; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Alopecia areata often first appears during childhood, and
12 its symptoms can be different for everyone who suffers from the
13 disease; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Scientists aren’t exactly sure what “triggers” the immune
15 system to attack healthy hair follicles when people have alopecia
16 areata, or even if the triggers first happen from a virus or bacteria,
17 environmental factors, or a combination of both; and
18 **WHEREAS**, There are three types of alopecia areata: alopecia areata
19 patchy — the most common form, which causes the formation of
20 one or more coin-sized hairless patches on the scalp or other areas
21 of the body; alopecia totalis — which causes a total loss of the hair
22 on the scalp; and alopecia universalis — which causes complete
23 loss of hair on the scalp, face, and body; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Common symptoms of alopecia areata include: small,
25 round or oval patches of hair loss on the scalp, beard area of the
26 face, or other areas of the body with hair; hair loss and regrowth at
27 the same time in different areas of the body; significant hair loss in
28 a very short period of time; hair loss that’s mostly on one side of
29 the scalp, instead of both sides; the growth of “exclamation point”
30 hairs that are narrow at the base or next to the scalp; and “stippling”
31 or “pitting,” the formation of rows of tiny dents on the fingernails;
32 and
33 **WHEREAS**, Currently, there is no cure for alopecia areata. However,
34 there are a variety of treatment options available for disrupting or
35 distracting the immune attack on, and the stimulating of, the hair
36 follicle, especially for those who have milder forms of the disease,
37 including medication, surgery, and laser therapy; and
38 **WHEREAS**, It is in the public interest to educate New Jerseyans about
39 alopecia areata in order to enhance their understanding of the
40 disease and their support for those who suffer from it, and to
41 encourage increased research and funding that will improve
42 treatment and help in the discovery of a cure for the disease; now,
43 therefore,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
46 *State of New Jersey:*

1. The month of September in each year is designated as “Alopecia Areata Awareness Month” in order to enhance their understanding of the disease and their support for those who suffer from it, and to encourage increased research and funding that will improve treatment and help in the discovery of a cure for the disease.

2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials, health care professionals, and the citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs designed to raise public awareness of this disease.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution designates September of each year as “Alopecia Areata Awareness Month.”

The resolution directs the Governor to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials, health care professionals, and the citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs designed to raise public awareness of this disease.