

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 33

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttie, Chaparro, Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson,

Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Jimenez,

Assemblymen McKeon, Freiman and Greenwald

SYNOPSIS

Designates June 2 of each year as “Gun Violence Awareness Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating June 2 of each year as “Gun
2 Violence Awareness Day” in the State of New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, According to data from the Centers for Disease Control
5 and Prevention (CDC), in 2016 there were a total of 38,658 firearm
6 related deaths in the United States and of those deaths an estimated
7 13,000 are attributed to firearm homicides; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The CDC data indicates that nationwide an annual average
9 of 67,197 nonfatal firearm injuries occur; and
10 **WHEREAS**, According to the CDC, in New Jersey there were 485
11 firearm related deaths in 2016 and 475 firearm related deaths in
12 2015; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with
14 firearms than people in other developed countries; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Firearm violence is the leading cause of death for women
16 in instances of domestic violence in the United States each year;
17 and
18 **WHEREAS**, Thousands of children under the age of 19 annually die as
19 a result of firearms; and
20 **WHEREAS**, One example of these tragic child victims is Hadiya
21 Pendleton who, at the age of 15, was shot and killed in Chicago just
22 one week after performing at President Obama’s second inaugural
23 parade in 2013; and
24 **WHEREAS**, On June 2, 2013, a group of Chicago teens commemorated
25 the life of their slain friend, Hadiya, by marching to raise awareness
26 about firearm violence; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Many communities across the nation have marched
28 annually on June 2 to recognize the death of Hadiya, to honor the
29 many lives cut short and the hundreds more injured by firearm
30 violence every day, and to demand action to end these tragedies;
31 and
32 **WHEREAS**, Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding
33 citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping firearms away from
34 dangerous people; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The goals of the national “Gun Violence Awareness Day”
36 campaign are: to promote greater awareness about firearm violence
37 and firearm safety; to concentrate annual heightened attention to
38 firearm violence during the summer months, when firearm violence
39 typically increases; and to bring citizens and community leaders
40 together to discuss ways to make our communities safer; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey encourages all citizens to
42 support their local communities’ efforts to prevent the tragic
43 effects of firearm violence and declares June 2 of every year as
44 “Gun Violence Awareness Day” in this State to honor and
45 remember all victims and survivors of firearm violence and to
46 declare that we as a country must do more to reduce firearm
47 violence; now, therefore,

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

3
4 1. June 2 of each year is designated as “Gun Violence
5 Awareness Day” in New Jersey to honor and remember all victims
6 of, and others affected by, firearm violence.

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8 2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation and call
9 upon public officials, private organizations, and all citizens of this
10 State to observe “Gun Violence Awareness Day” with appropriate
11 awareness activities and programs.

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

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16 STATEMENT

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18 This joint resolution designates June 2 of every year as “Gun
19 Violence Awareness Day” in New Jersey to honor and remember all
20 victims of, and others affected by, firearm violence. The resolution
21 also requires the Governor to issue a proclamation calling on public
22 officials and citizens of New Jersey to observe June 2 of every year
23 as “Gun Violence Awareness Day.”

24 The national “Gun Violence Awareness Day” campaign was
25 established by the friends of Hadiya Pendleton to commemorate her
26 life. Tragically, Hadiya, at the age of 15, was shot and killed in
27 Chicago just one week after performing at President Obama’s
28 second inaugural parade. On June 2, 2013 teens first marched to
29 raise awareness about firearm violence and to honor the lives cut
30 short every day because of firearm related violence.

31 Communities nationwide annually recognize “Gun Violence
32 Awareness Day” to promote greater awareness about firearm
33 violence and firearm safety, to concentrate heightened attention on
34 firearm violence during the summer months, when this violence
35 typically increases, and to bring citizens and community leaders
36 together to discuss ways to make our communities safer.