

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 85

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2006

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of March in each year as "Brain Injury Awareness Month."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

A Joint Resolution designating the month of March in each year as "Brain Injury Awareness Month."

Whereas, According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1.5 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year, and 500,000 of those individuals die as a result of these injuries; the CDC also indicates that approximately 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities resulting from brain injury, including 160,000 New Jersey residents; and

Whereas, With TBI occurring every 21 seconds, this public health concern ranks as the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults; additionally, on an annual basis, 40,000 individuals over the age of 65 visit hospital emergency rooms for TBI as a result of a fall, leading to the hospitalization of 16,000 senior citizens and the death of 4,000 senior citizens; and

Whereas, The Department of Health and Senior Services states that each year, one-third of all injury deaths and 10% of injury hospitalizations in the State result from TBI, with the highest proportion occurring among young adults and the elderly; and

Whereas, The costs relating to brain injury are staggering, and individuals with severe brain injury typically face five to 10 years of intensive rehabilitation with cumulative costs exceeding \$35 billion annually; and

Whereas, Individuals with severe brain injury suffer from serious physical impairments and a variety of perceptual, cognitive, psychiatric, emotional and behavioral complications, including

impaired interpersonal and problem-solving skills, memory loss, decreased thought-processing abilities, speech and seizure disorders, and physical deficits; and

Whereas, The only cure for TBI is prevention, and public awareness is critical to the prevention of brain injury and to enhancing the recovery process of all individuals affected by TBI; and

Whereas, The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey is a Statewide membership organization dedicated to providing education, outreach, prevention, advocacy and support services to all individuals affected by TBI and to the general public; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The month of March in each year is designated as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in the State of New Jersey.
2. The Governor is hereby requested to issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.
3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution designates the month of March in each year as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" and requests the Governor to issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.