

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 174

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges American Academy of Pediatrics and New Jersey Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics to issue guidance for pediatricians and family doctors on discussing personal space and privacy with children.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the American Academy of  
2    Pediatrics and the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy  
3    of Pediatrics to issue guidance for pediatricians and family  
4    doctors on discussing personal space and privacy with children.

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6   **WHEREAS**, Child sexual abuse is a common adverse childhood  
7    experience affecting one in four girls and one in eight boys; and

8   **WHEREAS**, Children who experience sexual abuse may develop  
9    serious lifelong physical and mental health consequences; and

10   **WHEREAS**, Pediatricians can provide anticipatory guidance to children  
11    regarding personal space and privacy over the course of a child's  
12    life, in developmentally appropriate ways, to increase a child's  
13    knowledge of appropriate and inappropriate touching, and to teach  
14    a child how to respond to inappropriate touching; and

15   **WHEREAS**, Currently, there are insufficient resources for pediatricians  
16    and family doctors to utilize in providing children and parents  
17    anticipatory guidance on personal space and privacy for children,  
18    which reduces the potential for this dialogue to occur; and

19   **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for this House to urge the  
20    American Academy of Pediatrics and the New Jersey Chapter of  
21    the American Academy of Pediatrics to develop materials and issue  
22    guidance to assist pediatricians and family doctors in providing  
23    children and parents anticipatory guidance on personal space and  
24    privacy for children, in order to potentially either reduce the  
25    incidence of child sexual abuse or prevent the increase in such  
26    abuse; now, therefore,

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28    **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
29    *Jersey:*

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31    1. This House urges the American Academy of Pediatrics and  
32    the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to  
33    develop materials and issue guidance to assist pediatricians and  
34    family doctors in providing children and parents anticipatory  
35    guidance on personal space and privacy for children.

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37    2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
38    shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to each  
39    member of the board of directors of the American Academy of  
40    Pediatrics and each member of the executive committee of the New  
41    Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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44                                   **STATEMENT**

45  
46    This resolution urges the American Academy of Pediatrics and  
47    the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to

1 issue guidance for pediatricians and family doctors on discussing  
2 personal space and privacy with children.

3 Child sexual abuse is a common adverse childhood experience  
4 affecting one in four girls and one in eight boys. Children who  
5 experience sexual abuse may develop serious lifelong physical and  
6 mental health consequences. Pediatricians can provide anticipatory  
7 guidance to children regarding personal space and privacy over the  
8 course of a child's life, in developmentally appropriate ways, to  
9 increase a child's knowledge of appropriate and inappropriate  
10 touching, and to teach a child how to respond to inappropriate  
11 touching.

12 Currently, there are insufficient resources for pediatricians and  
13 family doctors to utilize in providing children and parents  
14 anticipatory guidance on personal space and privacy for children,  
15 which reduces the potential for this dialogue to occur.

16 The American Academy of Pediatrics and the New Jersey  
17 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is urged to develop  
18 materials and issue guidance to assist pediatricians and family  
19 doctors in providing children and parents anticipatory guidance on  
20 personal space and privacy for children, in order to potentially  
21 either reduce the incidence of child sexual abuse or prevent the  
22 increase of such abuse.