

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 34

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates March as “Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**SJR34 VITALE**

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March as “Triple Negative  
2 Breast Cancer Awareness Month.”  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, Breast cancer is among the most commonly diagnosed  
5 cancers and the second deadliest cancer among women in the  
6 United States; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 8,330 women in New Jersey were  
8 diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, Triple Negative Breast Cancer is a form of breast cancer  
10 that accounts for roughly 15 to 30 percent of all diagnosed invasive  
11 breast cancer cases in the United States; and  
12 **WHEREAS**, More than 53,700 new breast cancer cases in 2019 in the  
13 United States were Triple Negative Breast Cancer, with higher  
14 prevalence among younger women, Black and Hispanic women,  
15 women with type 2 diabetes, women carrying excess weight in the  
16 abdomen area, and women with certain gene mutations; and  
17 **WHEREAS**, Due to its aggressive behavior, Triple Negative Breast  
18 Cancer grows quickly and is more likely to return following  
19 successful treatment as compared to other types of breast cancer;  
20 and  
21 **WHEREAS**, Individuals diagnosed with metastatic Triple Negative  
22 Breast Cancer have less than a 30 percent chance of surviving five  
23 years following diagnosis; and  
24 **WHEREAS**, Breast cancer patients with an early diagnosis can often be  
25 treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, there  
26 are limited therapies available for Triple Negative Breast Cancer;  
27 and  
28 **WHEREAS**, Recent innovation in targeted therapies have fueled  
29 advances in the fight against Triple Negative Breast Cancer; and  
30 **WHEREAS**, According to certain studies, Triple Negative Breast  
31 Cancer mortality rates are often higher if patients have Medicaid or  
32 Medicare or if patients have a lower socio-economic status;  
33 furthermore, compared with non-Hispanic white women; and  
34 **WHEREAS**, Black women are 48 percent less likely to receive  
35 guideline adherent care and have an approximate two-fold higher  
36 mortality incidence, which can result in a disproportionately higher  
37 risk of death from Triple Negative Breast Cancer; and  
38 **WHEREAS**, Advances in breast cancer screening and treatment over  
39 the last several decades have reduced the overall breast cancer  
40 mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of Triple Negative  
41 Breast Cancer on racial and ethnic minority communities raises  
42 considerations about the underlying determinants driving the  
43 disparities; and  
44 **WHEREAS**, It is necessary to promote Triple Negative Breast Cancer  
45 education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and  
46 tackle health disparities within the health care delivery such as  
47 inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to  
48 improve early detection and survival; now, therefore,

**SJR34 VITALE**

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

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4       1. March of each year is designated as “Triple Negative Breast  
5 Cancer Awareness Month.”

6

7       2. The Governor may annually issue a proclamation  
8 recognizing March as “Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness  
9 Month” and call on public officials and the residents of the State of  
10 New Jersey to observe the month with appropriate activities and  
11 programs.

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13       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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**STATEMENT**

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18       This resolution designates March as “Triple Negative Breast  
19 Cancer Awareness Month.”

20       Triple Negative Breast Cancer is a form of breast cancer that  
21 accounts for roughly 15 to 30 percent of all diagnosed invasive  
22 breast cancer cases in the United States. More than 53,700 new  
23 breast cancer cases in 2019 in the United States were Triple  
24 Negative Breast Cancer, with higher prevalence among younger  
25 women, Black and Hispanic women, women with type 2 diabetes,  
26 women carrying excess weight in the abdomen area, and women  
27 with certain gene mutations. Due to its aggressive behavior, Triple  
28 Negative Breast Cancer grows quickly and is more likely to return  
29 following successful treatment as compared to other types of breast  
30 cancer. Breast cancer patients with an early diagnosis can often be  
31 treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, there  
32 are limited therapies available for Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

33       It is necessary to promote Triple Negative Breast Cancer  
34 education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and  
35 tackle health disparities within the health care delivery such as  
36 inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to  
37 improve early detection and survival.