

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 107

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 15, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Johnson and McKnight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates March of each year as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2024)**

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of March of each year  
2       as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in New Jersey.  
3

4   **WHEREAS**, Fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD) is a disease that causes  
5       abnormal cell growth of the arterial wall. FMD can lead to areas of  
6       narrowing (stenosis), beading, aneurysms, and dissections (tears) of  
7       the arterial wall; and

8   **WHEREAS**, Until recently there has been very little progress in  
9       understanding the disease since it was first diagnosed in 1938.  
10      There is no known cause or cure for the disease and there are no set  
11      protocols to treat the disease; and

12   **WHEREAS**, FMD has always been considered and is still classified as a  
13      rare disease. Many researchers now believe FMD is an under-  
14      diagnosed disease. Some of the data suggest that four-five percent  
15      of the population may be affected by the disease; and

16   **WHEREAS**, Ninety percent of the patients affected by FMD are  
17      women, but men and children also get the disease. There are  
18      different classifications of FMD, the two most common types are  
19      medial fibroplasia and intimal fibroplasia. Unlike the adult  
20      population, children tend to be diagnosed with intimal fibroplasia,  
21      which can be more aggressive. Some patients present with both  
22      types of the disease. There is no understanding of why there are  
23      differences; and

24   **WHEREAS**, Individuals and families affected by FMD often experience  
25      problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining  
26      accurate and timely diagnosis, and optimal treatment options; and

27   **WHEREAS**, Many rare diseases are relatively well-known, but FMD is  
28      not well-known by the public or medical community. Patients and  
29      their families must bear a large share of the burden for things such  
30      as educating others, including their own physicians, and raising  
31      funds for awareness and research; and

32   **WHEREAS**, The Fibromuscular Dysplasia Society of America  
33      (FMDSA) was founded in March 2003. Over the past 13 years, this  
34      association has been active and successful with many programs  
35      including public and physician awareness, patient support, and  
36      engaging and working with researchers from around the world; and

37   **WHEREAS**, FMDSA is funding the United States Registry for FMD.  
38      Until the recent data was released, it was thought that 75 percent of  
39      FMD cases affected the renal arteries, but that is now known to be  
40      inaccurate. It is also very common to have a five year delay from  
41      onset of symptoms to diagnosis; and

42   **WHEREAS**, There is still much needed awareness and research of the  
43      disease. FMD patients present with the same symptoms that much  
44      of the general population is affected with, such as hypertension,  
45      headaches, and dizziness. Others present with transient ischemic  
46      attack or stroke, dissection (tear) of an artery, aneurysm, swooshing  
47      noise in the ear, and renal infraction. Children can present with  
48      basic symptoms such as high blood pressure, headaches, insomnia,

1 fatigue, and abdominal pain. Misdiagnoses of FMD can lead to  
2 severe consequences and disability; and

3 **WHEREAS**, FMDSA is organizing a global observance of FMD.  
4 During the month of March each year, patients, medical  
5 professionals, and researchers, are joining together to focus  
6 attention on FMD as a public health issue during that month; now,  
7 therefore,

8  
9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the  
10 State of New Jersey:

11  
12 1. The month of March of each year is designated as  
13 “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in the State of New  
14 Jersey to foster an awareness and understanding of Fibromuscular  
15 Dysplasia.

16  
17 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation  
18 calling upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe  
19 “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” with appropriate  
20 activities and programs.

21  
22 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

23  
24

25 STATEMENT

26  
27 This joint resolution designates the month of March of each year  
28 as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in order to  
29 promote an awareness and understanding of the disease.  
30 Fibromuscular dysplasia, commonly referred to as FMD, is a  
31 disease that causes abnormal cellular development in the arterial  
32 wall, which can lead to the narrowing or tearing of arteries. FMD is  
33 considered a rare disease that currently has no cure or standard  
34 protocol to treat it.

35 The joint resolution also respectfully requests the Governor to  
36 issue an annual proclamation calling upon public officials and  
37 citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate  
38 activities and programs.