

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 10, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of May each year as “Nurse’s Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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2

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of May each year as
2 “Nurse’s Month.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Nurses provide essential care throughout all stages of life
5 and work with patients in their most intimate and vulnerable
6 moments; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Nursing is the largest healthcare profession in the United
8 States, with approximately 4.7 million registered nurses; and

9 **WHEREAS**, There are four times as many registered nurses than
10 physicians in the United States; and

11 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, there are 141,000 active registered nurses,
12 13,500 nurse practitioners, and 23,400 licensed practical nurses;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, Women make up 88.5 percent of the nursing workforce;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, Nurses provide a variety of independent services from
17 delivering direct patient care to establishing quality assurance
18 procedures to directing complex nursing care systems; and

19 **WHEREAS**, In addition to working within the healthcare industry,
20 nurses work in tandem with legislatures to improve nursing
21 education, workforce development, and patient health and safety;
22 and

23 **WHEREAS**, Nurses are the leading providers of quality care to patients
24 in highly regulated and complex health care systems; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Nurses are on the front lines of hospital patient care and
26 deliver most of the country’s long-term care; and

27 **WHEREAS**, According to the American Association of Colleges of
28 Nursing, employment of nurses is projected to grow by five percent
29 over the next seven years; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Nurses are in high demand in both acute care systems as
31 well as community settings which include: public health agencies,
32 primary care clinics, home health care, nursing homes, outpatient
33 surgical centers, hospices, the military, nursing education and
34 health care research; and

35 **WHEREAS**, In 1982, the American Nurses Association declared May 6
36 as Nurses Day, affirming a joint resolution of the United States
37 Congress providing for the same acknowledgment; and

38 **WHEREAS**, Nurse’s Day is intended to celebrate nurses for providing
39 safe, high-quality health care across the diverse populations and
40 communities of the United States; and

41 **WHEREAS**, It is all together fitting and proper for New Jersey to
42 recognize and celebrate nurses for their personal and professional
43 contributions to the improved health of the residents of this State;
44 now, therefore,

45
46 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the
47 State of New Jersey:

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1 1. The month of May each year is designated as “Nurse’s
2 Month” in order to recognize and celebrate nurses for their
3 dedication to the health and wellbeing of patients and to
4 acknowledge their accomplishments in, and contributions to, the
5 medical field.
6

7 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
8 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of the State
9 to observe “Nurse’s Month” with appropriate activities and
10 programs.
11

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

14
15 **STATEMENT**
16

17 This joint resolution would designate the month of May each
18 year as “Nurse’s Month” to promote greater public appreciation of
19 the professionals who work tirelessly to provide quality healthcare
20 to all patients. New Jersey is home to over 140,000 nurses in
21 addition to thousands of nurse practitioners and licensed practical
22 nurses. Nurses are vital to maintaining our healthcare systems and
23 have expanded their knowledge and skillset in the medical field
24 through ongoing education and scientific advancements. Nurses are
25 the cornerstone of community health services and essential to acute
26 care settings. Nurses are on the forefront of maintaining public
27 health infrastructure and educating communities on healthy
28 lifestyles and disease prevention. Nurses are facing issues in
29 regards to not having enough trained nursing professionals to
30 provide educational services to the next generation of nurses. In
31 2023, the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing reported
32 that the State’s healthcare workforce could lose 10,000 nurses over
33 the next few years and that 9 out of 10 nursing programs are unable
34 to enroll additional students due to lack of faculty nurses. In the
35 face of workforce shortages and relentless public health crises,
36 nurses have continually shown up and given back to the community.
37 For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic while many
38 individuals were able to work remotely, nurses appeared in person
39 to perform lifesaving services. New Jersey seeks to honor nurses
40 from every walk of life as they have so valiantly provided
41 indispensable care to residents throughout the State.