SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 27

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 9, 2024

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Joint Resolution No. 27.

This joint resolution designates the third full week in May of each year as "Roxie's Wish: Drowning Prevention Week for Children" to promote public awareness of strategies and best practices for the prevention of drowning among children. The resolution requests the Governor to annually issue a proclamation recognizing the week and calling on public officials and the residents of New Jersey to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death among children in this country, especially those under age five. Thousands of people in the United States, many of them being children, die each year from drowning under circumstances that are preventable. Additionally, nonfatal drownings can cause a number of long-term, significant cognitive and motor skill impairments. It is critical that public awareness is increased so that residents can take proactive measures to prevent children from drowning. By utilizing simple safety strategies to mitigate risk, such as ensuring pools are properly enclosed, providing close adult supervision whenever children are in the water, teaching children how to swim, and providing life jackets to children who cannot swim, unintentional drowning deaths among children can be prevented.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2024-2025 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.