

RESOLUTION 300(17)

December 13, 2017

WHEREAS, every 4½ minutes, a baby is born with a birth defect in the United States. That means nearly 120,000 babies are affected by birth defects each year; and

WHEREAS, birth defects cause one in every five infant deaths and lead to \$2.6 billion per year in hospital costs alone in the United States; and

WHEREAS, birth defects are the leading cause of infant deaths, accounting for 20% of all infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, a birth defect is a problem that happens while a baby is developing in the mother's body. Most birth defects happen during the first 3 months of pregnancy. One out of every 33 babies in the United States is born with a birth defect; and

WHEREAS, a birth defect may affect how the body looks, works or both. Some birth defects like cleft lip or neural tube defects are structural problems that can be easy to see. To find others, like heart defects, doctors use special tests. Birth defects can range from mild to severe; and

WHEREAS, health care providers can diagnose certain birth defects during pregnancy with prenatal tests. That's why it important to get regular prenatal care; and

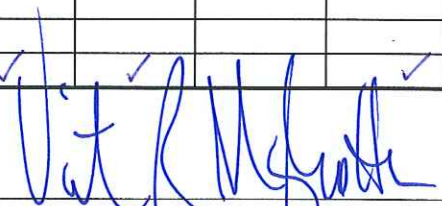
WHEREAS, strategies to prevent birth defects include taking 400 mcg of folic acid daily, before and after pregnancy, avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco use during pregnancy, eating a healthy, balanced diet, get regular checkups and beware of chemicals in cleaning products and paint; and

WHEREAS, the good health and well being of the people of Ocean County are enhanced by the support of a national effort to educate about and prevent birth defects; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean County Board of Health joins with the March of Dimes, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and the National Birth Defects Prevention Network, as well as many dedicated volunteers, healthcare professionals, and parent groups by participating in this promotion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ocean County Board of Health does hereby proclaim the month of January 2018 as National Birth Defects Month.

Name	Blake	Dasti	Hill	Laureigh	Mancini	Scaturro	Singer	Work	Mallon
Ayes		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Abstain									
Nays									
Absent	✓				✓	✓		✓	


Victoria R. Mikagliotta, Assistant Secretary