

**RESOLUTION 321(18)**

December 12, 2018

WHEREAS, birth defects are common, costly, and critical conditions that affect 1 in every 33 babies born in the United States each year.<sup>1</sup>

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

WHEREAS, birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, ethnicity, health history or economic status; and

WHEREAS, steps can be taken to reduce the chance that a child will be born with a birth defect, such as taking a daily vitamin with folic acid before and during pregnancy, getting regular prenatal care, becoming up-to-date with vaccinations, reaching a healthy weight before pregnancy and stopping the use of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy; and

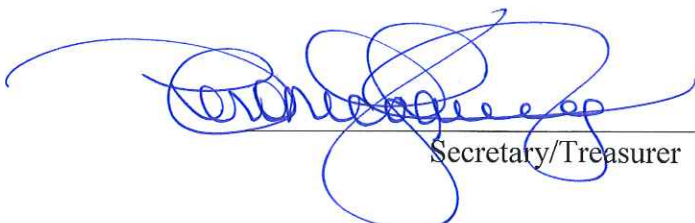
WHEREAS, early identification of a child with a birth defect coupled with early intervention services typically improves the child's quality of life; and

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 2019 as National Birth Defects Month.

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

  
Secretary/Treasurer