

**RESOLUTION 344(20)**

December 9, 2020

WHEREAS, National Birth Defects Prevention Month is a time to spread the word that there are things you can do to help prevent birth defects in your baby; and

WHEREAS, birth defects are common, costly, and critical conditions that affect 1 in every 33 babies (about 3% of all babies) born in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, these structural changes present at birth can affect one or more parts of the body (e.g., heart, brain, foot) and mostly develop in the first three months when a baby's organs are forming. Common birth defects include congenital heart defects, cleft lip and left palate and spina bifida; and

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

WHEREAS, not all birth defects can be prevented. But a woman can take steps 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

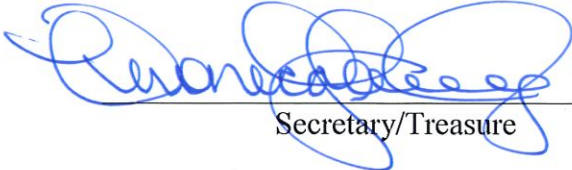
WHEREAS, early identification of a child with a birth defect coupled with early intervention services typically improves the child's quality of life; and

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 2021 as National Birth Defects Prevention Month.

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

  
Secretary/Treasure