SPONSOR: Rep. Briggs King on behalf of all Representatives &
Sen. Lopez on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, IN 2017 AS "AWARENESS WEEK FOR THE PREVENTION, RECOGNITION, AND TREATMENT OF PRENATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE IN INFANTS AND TO SUPPORT HEALTHY FAMILIES IN DELAWARE.

WHEREAS, abuse of and dependence on prescription painkillers, opioids, alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs have led to an epidemic across this state and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder is a chronic disease that needs a variety of supportive services and engagement to prevent and overcome; and

WHEREAS, the rate of opioid abuse and drug dependency among pregnant women has increased in our nation; and

WHEREAS, prenatal exposure to opioids and other drugs may cause infants to be born with an dependency condition known as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), which is an expected and treatable condition; and

WHEREAS, prenatal exposure to alcohol may cause infants to be born with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, which may result in a lifetime of health problems; and

WHEREAS, many pregnant women have received false information, or no information at all, about how substance use could impact their pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to avoid stigmatization of pregnant women suffering from substance use disorders and to offer compassion and understanding so that they may feel safe in seeking prenatal care and substance use treatment services; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Family Services received approximately 295 notifications of infants with prenatal substance exposure in 2015, and approximately 430 notifications in 2016; and

WHEREAS, prevention, education, public awareness, and knowledge of available treatment resources and services are crucial to reducing the physical, social and economic impact of addiction in families and prenatal substance exposure; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware is committed to promoting health and recovery by ensuring that our citizens have access to quality prevention and treatment for substance use and promoting safe environments and the compassionate care necessary to give every infant the best possible start in life;

HR : PT : AFJ
0801490275
Released: 06/15/2017 05:20 PM

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the Senate concurring therein, that the members of the Delaware General Assembly hereby designate the third week of September in 2017 as AWARENESS WEEK FOR THE PREVENTION, RECOGNITION, AND TREATMENT OF PRENATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE IN INFANTS AND TO SUPPORT HEALTHY FAMILIES IN DELAWARE.

SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution designates the third week of September in 2017 as "Awareness Week for the Prevention, Recognition, and Treatment of Prenatal Substance Exposure in Infants and to Support Healthy Families in Delaware.