

Proclamation

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH MAY 2017



WHEREAS, Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, affecting 5 million individuals each year; one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in the course of a lifetime, and one in fifty will develop melanoma, which makes it the most common form of cancer in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the two most common forms of skin cancer are basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas are highly curable; melanoma the third most common form of skin cancer is the deadliest skin cancer and one of the most common cancers for young adults and is on the rise nationwide and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, recent studies indicate sun damage in childhood can lead to skin cancer later in life, it also shows young people are not using proper protection and melanoma will account for more than 80,000 cases of skin cancer in 2017, and

WHEREAS, Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old and the second most common form of cancer for young people 15-29 years old; Melanoma is more than likely to spread to different parts of the body, Over the past 33 years, more people have been diagnosed with skin cancer than ALL other cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, more women are diagnosed with melanoma before the age of 45, by age 60, the rate is more than two times higher in men, and by age 80, the rate in men is nearly three times higher than in women. Melanoma rates are 24 times higher in whites than non-Hispanic and other races and ethnicities and more than 9 out of 10 cases of melanoma are diagnosed in non-Hispanic whites. Differences in state populations are responsible for much of the variation in melanoma rates between states; and

WHEREAS, the overall death rates from all cancers has decreased in the last three years, the incidence of all cancers continues to increase by over 4% with a rise in melanomas of the skin, especially in Morris and Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts to address skin cancer risk factors, such as in adequate sun protection and intentional tanning behaviors sunburn remain high, affecting nearly 37 percent of Americans each year as a result of overexposure to UV rays; Indoor tanning is especially dangerous, resulting in an estimated 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the US each year; and

WHEREAS, skin cancer is a serious public health concern, the Regional Chronic Disease Coalition of Morris and Somerset and its partners are unified in promoting communitywide efforts to prevent skin cancer for everyone especially youth all year long.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter S. Palmer, Director of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, to help save lives and raise awareness of skin cancer, do hereby support and recognize the state of New Jersey proclaiming May **SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**, and urge all residents to talk with family and friends about the importance of EARLY DETECTION and PREVENTION measures and to educate ourselves and others about this disease and to offer compassion and understanding to people living with cancers of the skin.

Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Director

Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder

Brian D. Levine, Freeholder

Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder Deputy Director

Mark Caliguire, Freeholder

ATTEST:

Kathryn Quick, Deputy Clerk of the Board

April 25, 2017