

**Text for 2018 Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day, June 4, Proclamation:**

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome (TS) is an inherited neurological disorder that is characterized by involuntary physical and vocal tics with symptoms usually appearing at 6 or 7 years old; and

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is often accompanied by other conditions such as attention deficit and obsessive compulsive disorder, anxiety and learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome and other tic disorders affect as many as 1 in 100 individuals, including every race and ethnic group, both males and females, but it often goes unrecognized and under-diagnosed, especially in those with less access to health care; and

WHEREAS, there is an important need for more professional help with interest and expertise to identify, counsel, and treat people with TS, with the lag time between initial onset of symptoms and proper diagnosis for those who do seek help still averaging more than seven (7) years; and

WHEREAS, positive actions to assist those children and families dealing with TS would result from a broadening of public and professional knowledge and acceptance of TS; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Center for Tourette Syndrome & Associated Disorders, Inc. (NJCTS) is the nation's first Center of Excellence for Tourette Syndrome and they are actively providing services to families, educating medical professionals, teachers, social workers, and supporting research to better understand the signs and treatments of TS;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that June 4, 2018 will be recognized as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day" in \_\_\_\_\_, as a special day to promote understanding, compassion, and acceptance for all of our fellow citizens who deserve and need our support to break the stigma that surrounds Tourette Syndrome.