

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Designating March 8th as International Women’s Day in New Jersey

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TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation (AJR140) permanently designating March 8th as “International Women’s Day” in New Jersey. The bill reflects New Jersey’s commitment to pursuing strategies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls, promoting the meaningful and significant participation of women in all aspects of society, encouraging equitable access to health care for all women and girls, and supporting policy initiatives that seek to achieve gender equality and empower women worldwide.

“New Jersey is stronger when we strive for a future in which every woman has the opportunity to reach her full potential,” said Governor Murphy. “It is my honor to sign legislation that celebrates the significant contributions and achievements of women by permanently designating March 8th as International Women’s Day. Together, we are making New Jersey a place where every girl and woman knows her future is limitless.”

“Women have been equal contributors to sustaining and building civilizations since the beginning of time, but our vast contributions and interests have not been compensated, represented or acknowledged equally,” said Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. “By permanently designating International Women’s Day in New Jersey, we are sending an empowering message to women and girls of all ages that their historical and present-day struggles for equal rights, equal pay and equal representation are seen and being addressed in our state.”

“The women of New Jersey have long made immeasurable contributions to the benefit of our state,” said First Lady Tammy Murphy. “Permanently designating March 8th of each year as International Women’s Day is our opportunity to recognize and celebrate those achievements, as well as recommit to promoting participation, inclusion, and empowerment of women and girls in all aspects of our society.”

Primary sponsors of the bill include Assemblywoman Gabriela M. Mosquera, and Senators Sandra B. Cunningham and Linda R. Greenstein.

“It’s important to celebrate how far we have come in the fight for gender equality and reflect on the work we still must do,” said Assemblywoman Mosquera. “By designating March 8th as International Women’s Day in New Jersey, we can create a space to raise awareness for women’s issues, highlight the achievements of women in our State, and reaffirm our commitment to empowering women and girls.”

“While International Women’s Day is already widely recognized, by signing this legislation we are reiterating our commitment to prioritizing women’s health, celebrating their achievements, and uplifting those in need,” said Senator Cunningham. “As we continue to see this pandemic take a disproportionate toll on women and women of color, I am grateful to have Governor Murphy as a partner in constantly looking for ways to better support the women of New Jersey.”

“The establishment of International Women’s Day reinforces the State’s commitment to protect and guarantee the basic human rights of women in New Jersey. This day will also serve to celebrate the achievements of legendary women within our State,” said Senator Greenstein. “The contribution of women to New Jersey, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, should continue to be commemorated.”

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