

Ms. Ryan offered the following proclamation and moved on its adoption:

## National Public Health Week Proclamation Monmouth County Regional Health Commission #1 Member Towns

**Whereas** the week of April 7–13, 2014, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Public Health: Start Here”;

**Whereas** since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health;

**Whereas** seven in 10 deaths in the U.S. are related to preventable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. Another striking fact is that 75 percent of our health care dollars are spent treating such diseases. However, only 3 percent of our health care dollars go toward prevention;<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas** nearly one-third of all students in the United States do not graduate from high school on time. Students who don’t graduate face lifelong health risks and high medical costs, and are more likely to engage in risky health behaviors. They are less likely to be employed and insured, and earn less—all of which continues the cycle of poverty and disparities.

**Whereas** more than half of all cancer deaths could be prevented by making healthy choices like not smoking, staying at a healthy weight, eating right, keeping active, and getting recommended screening tests.<sup>2</sup>

**Whereas** foodborne contaminants cause an average of 5,000 deaths, 325,000 hospitalizations, 76 million illnesses and costs billions of dollars annually. The five most common foodborne pathogens cost the U.S. economy more than \$44 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity.<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas** strong public health systems are critical for sustaining and improving community health:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, [name and title of your elected official],** by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of [city, state, or locality], do hereby proclaim the week of April 7-13, 2014, as **National Public Health Week 2014** in [city or state] and call upon the people of [city or state] to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders better understand the value of public health and adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year’s theme, **“Public Health: Start Here.”**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this [1st] day of April, two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

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Signature

[Insert city/state or other official seal]

<sup>1</sup> APHA, Public Health and Prevention Fund, <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/Health+Reform/PH+Fund/>

<sup>2</sup> American Cancer Society, <http://www.cancer.org/healthy/index>

<sup>3</sup> APHA Issue Brief, Creating a Safe Food System for America, 2009, <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/572F37ED-86EB-41C2-9EAE-A0E0B8011F69/0/FoodSafetyFinal.pdf>