



2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 31

April 25, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives VORPAGEL, RIEMER, ANDERSON, BOWEN, DITTRICH, DUCHOW, OHNSTAD, SARGENT, SINICKI, SPREITZER, STEFFEN, STUBBS, SUBECK, THIESFELDT and TUSLER, cosponsored by Senators FEYEN, HANSEN, CARPENTER, COWLES and OLSEN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** recognizing September 1 to 7, 2019, as Resiliency Week.

2 Whereas, hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by
3 lessening the impact of disasters. It is most effective when implemented under a
4 comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan; and

5 Whereas, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, administered by the
6 Federal Emergency Management Agency, is designed to assist states and local
7 communities in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation
8 program; and

9 Whereas, federal legislation recently enacted, the Disaster Recovery Reform
10 Act, makes available new dollars for states and communities to undertake
11 pre-disaster mitigation measures and creates new incentives for states to build
12 resiliently; and

13 Whereas, since 1908, natural disasters have cost the country more than one
14 trillion dollars; and

1 Whereas, disasters affect the local and state economies in lost payrolls, lost
2 sales and income tax, and increased disaster recovery times; and

3 Whereas, according to a FEMA commissioned study conducted by the National
4 Institute of Building Sciences, every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation provides the
5 nation with \$6 in future benefits; and

6 Whereas, 25 percent of small businesses that are impacted by a natural disaster
7 never reopen their doors; and

8 Whereas, September is National Preparedness Month and Wisconsin
9 Preparedness Month in recognition of the need for all Americans to prepare and plan
10 for recovery after a disaster; and

11 Whereas, mitigation planning is a key process used to break the cycle of
12 disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage; and

13 Whereas, effective pre-disaster mitigation reduces the demand for relief
14 services on volunteer organizations such as disaster rescue and recovery teams,
15 along with food banks and homeless shelters who serve our communities by changing
16 their operations to provide additional services to those affected by disaster; and

17 Whereas, this legislative body honors the brave men and women who, as first
18 responders, selflessly provide aid in a disaster to safeguard Wisconsin citizens; and

19 Whereas, this legislative body encourages Wisconsin communities to build
20 resiliently and develop long-range mitigation strategies for protecting people and
21 property from future hazard events; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
23 Legislature declares the week of September 1 to 7, 2019, as Resiliency Week to raise

1 public awareness about the continuing need to plan for future disasters by
2 instituting a pre-disaster mitigation strategy.

3 (END)