WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately half a million children living in the United States have blood lead levels high enough to cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, developmental delays and, at very high levels, seizures, coma and even death; and

WHEREAS, there is no known safe blood lead level and the State of New Jersey has worked to identify children with elevated blood lead levels by requiring young children to be screened at one and two years of age; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in encouraging parents to learn more about preventing young children's exposures to lead; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of childhood elevated blood lead levels is critically important so that parents, health care providers, housing authorities, building and construction interests, educators and others can work together to prevent children from being exposed to lead in the environment; and

WHEREAS, the #kNOwLEAD awareness campaign underscores the importance of testing your home, testing your child and learning how to prevent exposures to lead because there is no safe level of lead; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey on September 18, 2017 adopted rules for intervention at blood lead levels five micrograms per deciliter in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey effectuated the adopted rules by allocating $10 million to support local public health efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 21 THROUGH OCTOBER 27, 2018

as

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

in the State of New Jersey and urge all my fellow citizens to become involved in efforts aimed at preventing our children from being exposed to and poisoned by lead.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this fifteenth day of October in the year two thousand eighteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.