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**Senate Joint Resolution  
No. 16**

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**State of New Jersey  
210th Legislature**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 24, 2002

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LEONARD LANCE**

**District 23 (Warren and Hunterdon)**

**Senator NIA H. GILL**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators McNamara, Allen, Cardinale, Assemblymen O'Toole and Doherty**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revokes Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which sought to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/14/2003)**

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**A JOINT RESOLUTION** revoking Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which sought to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**WHEREAS**, The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution granted citizenship to, and protected the civil liberties of, freed slaves; and

**WHEREAS**, The Fourteenth Amendment also prohibits states from abridging the privileges or immunities of any citizen, depriving any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or denying any person equal protection of the laws; and

**WHEREAS**, The rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment are part of the foundation of our free society; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1866, the New Jersey Legislature acted to ensure these rights by ratifying the Fourteenth Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, Thereafter, the New Jersey Legislature, in 1868, attempted to withdraw its ratification of this amendment by passage of Joint Resolution No. IV; and

**WHEREAS**, Both the Federal Secretary of State and the Congress refused to recognize New Jersey's attempt to withdraw ratification and the Fourteenth Amendment became a part of the United States Constitution on July 20, 1868; and

**WHEREAS**, The attempt to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment is contrary to this State's long tradition of respect for, and protection of, the civil rights of all persons; and

**WHEREAS**, Even though the attempt to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment was without effect, there is, nevertheless, a need to rectify this misguided action; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which attempted to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment is hereby revoked.
2. Duly authenticated copies of this Joint Resolution shall be transmitted to the federal Secretary of State, the presiding officers of the Congress of the United States, and each member of New Jersey's congressional delegation.
3. This Joint Resolution shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED  
23rd DAY of APRIL 2003  
James E. McGreevey, Governor

Attest,  
Michael R. DeCotiis,  
Chief Counsel to the Governor

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#### STATEMENT

This Joint Resolution revokes Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which attempted to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

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