

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 288

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPELL

A RESOLUTION

To designate Friday, May 22, 2026, as World Preeclampsia Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally and internationally as Preeclampsia Awareness Month and aims to increase understanding of this life-threatening hypertensive disorder of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, World Preeclampsia Day is observed annually on May twenty-second to raise global awareness of preeclampsia, a serious pregnancy-related condition that poses significant risks to maternal and infant health; and

WHEREAS, preeclampsia is most often characterized by a rapid rise in blood pressure that can lead to seizure, stroke, multiple organ failure, and the death of the mother and baby; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently ranks forty-seventh worldwide for maternal mortality and is the only industrialized nation with a rising maternal mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, preeclampsia complicates approximately one in every twenty-five pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Louisiana recorded a maternal mortality rate of 41.9 deaths per one hundred thousand live births, which is the highest rate in the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to America's Health Rankings, 18.3 percent of Louisiana women between the ages of eighteen and forty-four have been diagnosed with high blood pressure, placing Louisiana forty-sixth among all states; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent of hypertension-related maternal deaths are considered potentially preventable with timely diagnosis, treatment, and coordinated care; and

WHEREAS, maternal death has profound and lasting emotional, social, and economic impacts on families and communities throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the primary treatment for preeclampsia involves early delivery of the infant to prevent disease progression and complications; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Louisiana ranked fifty-first among the fifty states and Puerto Rico for premature births, and preeclampsia is recorded as a significant contributing factor to such births; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana continues to rank among the states with the highest infant mortality rates in the United States, with nine deaths per one thousand live births compared to the national average of 5.6, according to America's Health Rankings; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Louisiana address the prevalence of infant and maternal mortality in the state and work to provide more effective care for the state's expecting mothers and unborn children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Friday, May 22, 2026, as World Preeclampsia Awareness Day in Louisiana and does hereby acknowledge Woman's Hospital for providing care to pregnant women to help reduce maternal and infant deaths and reduce the number of pre-term births.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES