

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 14 through 20, 2017, as "Tracheostomy Tube Awareness Week" in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Tracheostomy Tube Awareness Week was established to bring awareness to everyone living with tracheostomy tubes; and

WHEREAS, the purpose is to destigmatize children, youth, and adults living with and thriving via tracheostomy tube usage as medical life support; and

WHEREAS, tracheostomies are surgically created holes that pass from the front of the neck into the trachea and are created to allow patent airway access and adequate breathing; and

WHEREAS, they may be temporary in the case of airway emergencies or may be used for long-term access to airway and breathing depending on a patient's condition or overall health; and

WHEREAS, several hundred patients die annually of tracheostomy-related events in the United States; and

WHEREAS, most deaths occur at home and are potentially preventable with better patient and family education, coordinated care, and support; and

WHEREAS, because tracheostomies require care from multiple specialties, patients often experience disorganized, fragmented, and needlessly expensive care; and

WHEREAS, Trach Mommas of Louisiana was organized to provide peer support, resources, education, training, information, and advocacy to parents and caregivers and individuals with a tracheostomy; and

WHEREAS, they serve children and adults with tracheostomies and their caregivers throughout Louisiana with emotional and practical support and give them a voice in the community; and

WHEREAS, a tracheostomy gives an individual the ability to breathe and a chance at living life with the freedoms afforded to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the technology of a tracheostomy gives babies who are born prematurely the opportunity to have a stronger airway and lungs; and

WHEREAS, a child or individual with a tracheostomy, along with his family, needs extra love, positive attention, and support from the community and to not be avoided, segregated, or feared; and

WHEREAS, awareness efforts are designed to educate the community about the impact of having a tracheostomy and to encourage positive community support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 14 through 20, 2017, as "Tracheostomy Tube Awareness Week" in the state of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE