SLS 24RS-169

ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR MCMATH

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes Saturday, October 5, 2024, as Ostomy Awareness Day.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To recognize Saturday, October 5, 2024, as Ostomy Awareness Day.
3	WHEREAS, an ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening, called a stoma,
4	in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste when a person has lost the
5	normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, colorectal cancer,
6	bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions; and
7	WHEREAS, ostomies are also necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic
8	trauma resulting from accidents or from injuries sustained during military service; and
9	WHEREAS, the bodily waste passes through the stoma into an ostomy "pouch" on
10	the outside of the body or in the case of continent diversion surgeries, an internal surgically
11	created reservoir; and
12	WHEREAS, between seven hundred twenty-five thousand to one million Americans
13	have an ostomy, with approximately one hundred thousand new ostomy procedures
14	performed each year; and
15	WHEREAS, ostomy and continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and affects
16	people from all ethnic backgrounds; and
17	WHEREAS, largely through the efforts of United Ostomy Associations of America,
18	Inc., (UOAA) and its approximately three hundred affiliated support groups, Americans

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	needing these surgeries are becoming more aware of the opportunities for education, mutual		
	aid, advocacy, and support that are of such great benefit to them and their families; and		
	WHEREAS, the United States of America celebrates Ostomy Awareness Day with		
	United Ostomy Associations of America annually on the first Saturday of October; and		
	WHEREAS, the UOAA is committed to increasing public understanding of "ostomy"		
	to eventually help dispel the fear of those about to undergo this surgery, as well as the fear		
that confronts their families; and			
	WHEREAS, this day can serve as a reminder to the American public that this is a		
life-saving and life-restoring surgery; and			
	WHEREAS, the UOAA recognizes the vital need for public education and awareness		
	to ensure those who are living with an ostomy face no discrimination and are accepted as		
	normal, healthy individuals; and		
	WHEREAS, through education and awareness, UOAA strives to erase the myths,		
	stigma, and embarrassment that are sometimes associated with having an ostomy; and		
	WHEREAS, the UOAA is deeply committed to the proper care and advancement of		
	knowledge about bowel and urinary diversion surgery as a result of birth defects, disease,		
	injury, and other digestive disorders.		
	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana		

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

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