

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR MCMATH

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Saturday, October 5, 2024, as Ostomy Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, an ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening, called a stoma, in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste when a person has lost the normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, ostomies are also necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or from injuries sustained during military service; and

WHEREAS, the bodily waste passes through the stoma into an ostomy "pouch" on the outside of the body or in the case of continent diversion surgeries, an internal surgically created reservoir; and

WHEREAS, between seven hundred twenty-five thousand to one million Americans have an ostomy, with approximately one hundred thousand new ostomy procedures performed each year; and

WHEREAS, ostomy and continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and affects people from all ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, largely through the efforts of United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc., (UOAA) and its approximately three hundred affiliated support groups, Americans 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 does hereby recognize Saturday, October 5, 2024, as Ostomy Awareness Day.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE