

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY SENATOR OWEN

A RESOLUTION

To designate Thursday, May 28, 2026, as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, more than one in seven American adults are estimated to have chronic kidney disease (CKD), yet as many as nine in ten American adults with CKD do not know they have it; and

WHEREAS, at least 15 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, the two most common causes of kidney disease are hypertension and heart disease, while the third leading cause of kidney disease is glomerulonephritis, often caused by rare, immune-mediated kidney diseases such as IgA nephropathy (IgAN); and

WHEREAS, patients with glomerular diseases frequently advance to more costly and debilitating later stages of kidney disease, including end-stage renal disease (ESRD), more quickly than patients with CKD in general, with estimates suggesting that rare kidney diseases make up 5 to 10 percent of CKD patients but account for approximately 25 percent of patients receiving treatment for kidney failure; and

WHEREAS, patients often face delays in being diagnosed with IgAN and other immune-mediated kidney diseases, owing to the difficulty of the rare disease diagnostic odyssey, the limited number of nephrology providers, and lack of awareness about the causes of kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, kidney disease, including IgAN, presents a significant burden not only on the health and lives of patients and their families, but also incurs great challenges for the healthcare system and healthcare costs, with estimates suggesting that patients with IgAN-attributed ESRD have health costs exceeding \$63,000 a year; and

WHEREAS, while the federal Medicare program covers the costs of dialysis for many patients with ESRD, 45 percent of ESRD patients are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, and ESRD is a significant source of disability, with ESRD patients employed at only one-fifth the rate of the general population; and

WHEREAS, kidney disease patients are entering a new era of hope, including for rare diseases, with multiple therapies now approved by the Food and Drug Administration to slow the progression of CKD and multiple drugs approved to slow the progression of IgAN specifically; and

WHEREAS, there is growing recognition that early identification of kidney disease and rare kidney diseases, including through broader screening of patients with low-cost serum creatine blood tests and urine albuminuria creatine ratio tests, can slow the progression of kidney disease and prevent or delay ESRD, including in patients with immune-mediated kidney diseases; and

WHEREAS, IgAN Awareness Day is designated to increase awareness among patients, providers, and policymakers of kidney disease and glomerular diseases, and IgAN in particular; to support efforts to improve policies that may increase access to screening, diagnosis, and treatment for kidney disease; and to provide hope and inspiration to patients, caregivers, and advocates working tirelessly to advance awareness and better care for kidney disease.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Thursday, May 28, 2026, as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day in Louisiana.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE