
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1136 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, DEASY, THOMAS, BURNS, LONGIETTI, KINSEY,
MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD AND HILL-EVANS, OCTOBER 9, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 9, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 6, 2018, as "World Ostomy Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an
4 opening, known as a stoma, in the abdomen that allows for the
5 removal of bodily waste when a person has lost the normal
6 function of digestive or urinary systems due to a birth defect,
7 colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative
8 colitis or other medical condition; and

9 WHEREAS, An ostomy is also necessary in cases of severe
10 abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or from
11 injuries sustained during military service; and

12 WHEREAS, The bodily waste passes through the stoma into an
13 ostomy pouch on the outside of the body or, in the case of a
14 continent diversion surgery, an internal surgically created
15 reservoir; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans have an
17 ostomy, with approximately 100,000 new ostomy procedures

1 performed each year; and

2 WHEREAS, Ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at
3 any age and does not lower life expectancy; and

4 WHEREAS, Largely through the efforts of United Ostomy
5 Associations of America, Inc. (UOAA), and its more than 300
6 affiliated support groups, Americans needing these surgeries are
7 becoming more aware of the opportunities for education, mutual
8 aid, advocacy and support that are of great benefit to them and
9 their families; and

10 WHEREAS, UOAA celebrates "Ostomy Awareness Day" annually on
11 the first Saturday of October; and

12 WHEREAS, In partnership with the International Ostomy
13 Association, "World Ostomy Day" is celebrated every three years,
14 the last being held in 2015; and

15 WHEREAS, The aim of "World Ostomy Day" is to improve the
16 rehabilitation of ostomates worldwide by bringing to the
17 attention of the general public and the global community the
18 needs and aspirations of ostomates; and

19 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives is committed to
20 increasing public understanding of ostomies to help dispel the
21 fear of those about to undergo this surgery, as well as the fear
22 that confronts their families; and

23 WHEREAS, "World Ostomy Day" can serve as a reminder to the
24 American public that this is a life-saving and life-restoring
25 surgery; and

26 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes that public
27 education and awareness are vital to ensure those who are living
28 with an ostomy face no discrimination and are accepted as
29 normal, healthy individuals; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October

1 6, 2018, as "World Ostomy Day" in Pennsylvania.