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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 220 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BLAKE, FONTANA, STREET, MARTIN, J. WARD, LEACH,  
HUGHES, SCHWANK, VOGEL, PHILLIPS-HILL, MASTRIANO, BROWNE,  
MENSCH, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER, AUMENT AND BARTOLOTTA,  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 5, 2019, as "Ostomy Awareness 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, Our nation celebrates "Ostomy Awareness Day"  
11 annually on the first Saturday of October; and

12 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is committed to increasing public  
13 understanding of ostomies to help dispel the fear of those about  
14 to undergo this surgery, as well as the fear that confronts  
15 their families; and

16 WHEREAS, "Ostomy Awareness Day" can serve as a reminder that  
17 this is a life-saving and life-restoring surgery; and

18 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth recognizes that public education  
19 and awareness are vital to ensure those who are living with an  
20 ostomy face no discrimination and are accepted as normal,  
21 healthy individuals; and

22 WHEREAS, Through education and awareness, this Commonwealth  
23 can reduce myths and stigma associated with having an ostomy;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is committed to spreading  
26 knowledge about the advancement of bowel and urinary diversion  
27 surgery as a result of birth defects, disease, injury and other  
28 digestive disorders; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize October 5, 2019, as  
30 "Ostomy Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to increase public

- 1 acceptance of ostomy surgery and continent diversion surgery and
- 2 help the residents of this Commonwealth understand that ostomies
- 3 are life-savers.