
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 341 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, McANDREW, MERSKI, GIRAL AND KINSEY,
MARCH 18, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 18, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 17, 2024, as "Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is the most common
4 cause of death in hospitalized premature infants after two weeks
5 of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Babies born prematurely or with a medical
7 complication, like congenital heart disease, are most at risk of
8 NEC; and

9 WHEREAS, Roughly 7% of premature babies develop NEC and, of
10 those, about 25% do not survive; and

11 WHEREAS, Cash Owen Finegan, a Pennsylvania premature baby,
12 son of Shannan and Cassius Finegan, lived for 68 brave days
13 before succumbing to NEC complications; and

14 WHEREAS, NEC causes a severe inflammatory process that can
15 lead to intestinal tissue damage and death and, once NEC is
16 diagnosed, many babies only live for a few hours or days; and

17 WHEREAS, Surgery for NEC is not curative, and the babies who
18 survive often have lifelong neurological and nutritional

1 complications; and

2 WHEREAS, NEC results in approximately \$5 billion in
3 hospitalization expenses per year; and

4 WHEREAS, Breast milk is one of the most effective ways to
5 help prevent NEC in medically fragile infants; and

6 WHEREAS, When the mother's milk is unavailable, pasteurized
7 donor human milk is the next-safest option for babies at risk of
8 NEC; and

9 WHEREAS, Although the risk of NEC cannot be fully eliminated
10 and there are not yet sure ways to stop or cure NEC,
11 preventative measures are effective at reducing risks; and

12 WHEREAS, NEC can develop in both premature babies and babies
13 born at term, and more data is desperately needed to better
14 understand how and why it occurs at all; and

15 WHEREAS, Disparities and variation in care lead to Black
16 infants being disproportionately affected by, and dying from,
17 NEC compared to White infants; and

18 WHEREAS, The NEC Society is a nonprofit organization founded
19 and led by a bereaved mother whose son died from complications
20 of NEC and is the world's leading charity working to accelerate
21 NEC research, education and advocacy; and

22 WHEREAS, Working toward awareness and a cure is how this
23 devastating neonatal disease can be eradicated; and

24 WHEREAS, To build a world without NEC and improve outcomes
25 for infants and families, we must bring Pennsylvanians together
26 to raise awareness about this devastating neonatal disease;
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 17,
29 2024, as "Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Day" in Pennsylvania
30 to help raise awareness of this devastating disease that has

1 taken the lives of our littlest far too soon.