**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE MANY HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA WHO SERVE PATIENTS REQUIRING OSTOMY IN ORDER TO RESUME NORMAL LIFE ACTIVITIES AND TO DECLARE OCTOBER 1, 2022, AS “OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is deeply grateful for those who make life‑saving surgeries, such as ostomy, available for so many; and

Whereas, ostomy surgery is a life‑saving procedure that allows bodily waste to pass through a surgically created stoma on the abdomen into a prosthetic known as a pouch or ostomy bag on the outside of the body or an internal surgically created pouch for continent diversion surgeries; and

Whereas, an ostomy may be necessary due to birth defects, cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, diverticulitis, incontinence, and many other medical conditions. They are also necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or other serious injuries; and

Whereas, between approximately seven hundred twenty‑five thousand and one million Americans have an ostomy, and about one hundred thousand new ostomy procedures are performed each year; and

Whereas, although this life-saving surgery can give hope to patients for regaining a normal life, many of them feel the option is a hopeless one and would rather die than have this surgery; and

Whereas, many are joining a movement across the country to speak out in order to increase public understanding of this surgery, hoping that continued education and awareness will erase the myths and stigma sometimes associated with having an ostomy; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives values the efforts of such organizations seeking to offer hope for patients faced with the need for ostomy. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the many healthcare workers in South Carolina who serve patients requiring ostomy in order to resume normal life activities and declare October 1, 2022, as “Ostomy Awareness Day” in South Carolina.

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