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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 503 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY WAXMAN, CONKLIN, GIRAL, OTTEN, FREEMAN, PROBST,  
HILL-EVANS, VENKAT, HADDOCK, KHAN, SANCHEZ, ROZZI, DALEY,  
JOZWIAK, CURRY AND GREEN, JULY 30, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JULY 30, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 5, 2024, 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, bowel injury or other medical condition; and

9 WHEREAS, Bodily waste passes through the stoma into an ostomy  
10 pouch on the outside of the body or, in the case of a continent  
11 diversion surgery, an internal surgically created reservoir; and

12 WHEREAS, Not all ostomies result in a permanent stoma, with  
13 doctors recommending temporary stomas if all or part of a  
14 patient's large intestine needs to rest following surgery; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 725,000 people in the United States  
16 currently live with an ostomy and more than 100,000 new ostomy  
17 surgeries are performed each year; and

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

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

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

11       WHEREAS, The International Ostomy Association sponsors "World  
12 Ostomy Day," which is recognized globally every three years and  
13 will be celebrated on October 5, 2024; and

14       WHEREAS, "Ostomy Awareness Day" and "World Ostomy Day" aim to  
15 improve the rehabilitation of ostomates by spreading awareness  
16 and promoting national and global visibility; and

17       WHEREAS, "Ostomy Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania may serve as  
18 a reminder that this is a lifesaving and life-restoring surgery;  
19 and

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

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

28       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October  
29 5, 2024, as "Ostomy Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.