

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 113

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DiMaio

SYNOPSIS

Designates October 1 of each year as “Ostomy Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/13/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating October 1 as
2 “Ostomy Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, An ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening
5 (stoma) in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste
6 when a person has lost the normal function of their digestive or
7 urinary system due to birth defects, colorectal and bladder cancer,
8 Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, This type of surgery is also necessary in cases of severe
11 abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or injuries
12 sustained during military service; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The ostomy allows for bodily wastes to pass through the
14 stoma into a “pouch” or “ostomy bag” that is attached on the
15 outside of a person’s body; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Ostomy surgery can occur at any age and does not lower
17 the life expectancy of a person who undergoes the surgery. Nearly
18 75,000 Americans have an ostomy, and approximately 130,000 new
19 ostomy procedures are performed each year; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Through the efforts of the United Ostomy Associations of
21 America Inc., (UOAA) and its 325 affiliated support groups, more
22 opportunities for education, mutual aid, advocacy, and support that
23 are being made available to Americans needing ostomy surgery and
24 their families; and

25 **WHEREAS**, A greater awareness of ostomy is essential in dispelling the
26 fears that confront ostomy surgery patients and their families and in
27 educating the public about the medical reasons for an ostomy; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The permanent establishment of October 1 as “Ostomy
29 Awareness Day” will serve to raise public awareness about ostomy
30 and ostomy surgery, erase the stigma that is sometimes associated
31 with having an ostomy, and ensure that people living with an
32 ostomy are not discriminated against and are accepted as normal
33 and healthy members of their communities; now, therefore,

34
35 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
36 *State of New Jersey:*

37
38 1. October 1 of each year is designated as “Ostomy Awareness
39 Day” in New Jersey in order to raise public awareness about ostomy
40 and ostomy surgery, erase the stigma that is sometimes associated
41 with having an ostomy, and ensure that people living with an
42 ostomy are not discriminated against and are accepted as normal
43 and healthy members of their communities.

44
45 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
46 proclamation recognizing October 1 as “Ostomy Awareness Day” in
47 New Jersey and calling upon public officials, the citizens of the

1 State, and other interested groups to observe the day with
2 appropriate activities and programs.

3

4 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
6 Secretary of the Senate to the United Ostomy Associations of
7 America, Inc.

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9 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This joint resolution permanently designates October 1 of
15 Ostomy Awareness Day” in New Jersey to raise public awareness
16 about ostomy and ostomy surgery, erase the stigma that is
17 sometimes associated with having an ostomy, and ensure that
18 people living with an ostomy are not discriminated against and are
19 accepted as normal and healthy members of their communities.