

BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Thursday, May 15, 2025, as Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day in the

3 state of Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is an intestinal disease that primarily

5 affects premature and medically fragile infants; the disease causes a severe inflammatory

6 process that can lead to intestinal tissue damage and is the most common cause of death in

7 hospitalized premature infants after two weeks of age; and

8 WHEREAS, babies born prematurely or with a medical complication, like congenital

9 heart disease, are most at risk of NEC; thousands of babies develop NEC each year and

10 hundreds of babies die from this complex intestinal condition; many babies only live for a

11 few hours or days after NEC is diagnosed; and

12 WHEREAS, surgery for NEC is not curative, and babies who survive often have

13 lifelong neurological and nutritional complications; and

14 WHEREAS, NEC results in approximately \$5 trillion of hospitalization expenses per

15 year and roughly nineteen percent of neonatal healthcare expenditures in the United States,

16 with an estimated cost of \$200,000 or more for each case of surgical necrotizing

17 enterocolitis; and

18 WHEREAS, although the risk of necrotizing enterocolitis cannot be fully eliminated,

19 preventative measures are effective at reducing risks; feeding breast milk is one of the most

20 effective ways to help prevent necrotizing enterocolitis in medically fragile infants; and

1           WHEREAS, more data is desperately needed to better understand how and why NEC  
2 occurs in infants; and

3           WHEREAS, because of disparities and variation in care, black infants are  
4 disproportionately affected by NEC compared to white infants; and

5           WHEREAS, to build a world without necrotizing enterocolitis and improve outcomes  
6 for infants and families, we must raise awareness about this devastating neonatal disease.

7           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Thursday, May 15, 2025, as Necrotizing  
9 Enterocolitis Awareness Day in Louisiana and does hereby recognize the importance of  
10 raising awareness about this devastating neonatal disease.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2025 Regular Session

Melerine

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