

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 280

BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates May 18, 2026, as Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate Monday, May 18, 2026, as Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day in  
3 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 significant hospitalization expenses per year and roughly  
15 nineteen percent of neonatal healthcare expenditures in the United States, with an estimated  
16 cost of two hundred thousand dollars 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 needed to better understand how and why NEC occurs in  
2 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, awareness must be raised about this devastating neonatal disease.

7           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, May 18, 2026, as Necrotizing  
9 Enterocolitis Awareness Day in Louisiana and does hereby encourage citizens to support  
10 initiatives that raise awareness about this 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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