

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 284

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPELL

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates May 22, 2026, as World Preeclampsia Awareness Day in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate Wednesday, May 22, 2026, as World Preeclampsia Awareness Day in
3 Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally and internationally as Preeclampsia
5 Awareness Month and aims to increase understanding of this life-threatening hypertensive
6 disorder of pregnancy; and

7 WHEREAS, World Preeclampsia Day is observed annually on May twenty-second
8 to raise global awareness of preeclampsia, a serious pregnancy-related condition that poses
9 significant risks to maternal and infant health; and

10 WHEREAS, preeclampsia is most often characterized by a rapid rise in blood
11 pressure that can lead to seizure, stroke, multiple organ failure, and the death of the mother
12 and baby; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States currently ranks forty-seventh worldwide for maternal
14 mortality and is the only industrialized nation with a rising maternal mortality rate; and

15 WHEREAS, in the United States, preeclampsia complicates approximately one in
16 every twenty-five pregnancies; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2024, Louisiana recorded a maternal mortality rate of 41.9 deaths per
18 one hundred thousand live births, which is the highest rate in the nation; and

19 WHEREAS, according to America's Health Rankings, 18.3 percent of Louisiana
20 women between the ages of eighteen and forty-four have been diagnosed with high blood
21 pressure, placing Louisiana forty-sixth among all states; and

1 WHEREAS, sixty percent of hypertension-related maternal deaths are considered
2 potentially preventable with timely diagnosis, treatment, and coordinated care; and

3 WHEREAS, maternal death has profound and lasting emotional, social, and
4 economic impacts on families and communities throughout Louisiana; and

5 WHEREAS, the primary treatment for preeclampsia involves early delivery of the
6 infant to prevent disease progression and complications; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2024, Louisiana ranked fifty-first among the fifty states and Puerto
8 Rico for premature births, and preeclampsia is recorded as a significant contributing factor
9 to such births; and

10 WHEREAS, Louisiana continues to rank among the states with the highest infant
11 mortality rates in the United States, with nine deaths per one thousand live births compared
12 to the national average of 5.6, according to America's Health Rankings; and

13 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Louisiana address the prevalence of infant and
14 maternal mortality in the state and work to provide more effective care for the state's
15 expecting mothers and unborn children.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, May 22, 2026, as World
18 Preeclampsia Awareness Day in Louisiana and does hereby acknowledge Woman's Hospital
19 for providing care to pregnant women to help reduce maternal and infant deaths and reduce
20 the number of pre-term births.

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)]

HR 284 Original

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