

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY SENATOR BARROW

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes Friday, May 22, 2026, as World Preeclampsia Awareness Day in the state of Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Friday, May 22, 2026, as World Preeclampsia Awareness Day in the state of
3 Louisiana and to commend Woman's Hospital for its dedication to lifesaving care for
4 pregnant women to help reduce preventable maternal and infant deaths and reduce
5 the number of preterm births.

6 WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally and internationally as Preeclampsia
7 Awareness Month, dedicated to increasing understanding of this life-threatening
8 hypertensive disorder of pregnancy; and

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

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

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

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

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

3 WHEREAS, according to America's Health Rankings, approximately eighteen
4 percent of Louisiana women ages eighteen to forty-four have been told by a healthcare
5 professional that they have high blood pressure, placing Louisiana forty-sixth among all
6 states; and

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, in 2024, Louisiana ranked fifty-first among the fifty states and Puerto
14 Rico for preterm births, with preeclampsia being a significant contributing factor; and

15 WHEREAS, Louisiana continues to rank among the states with the highest infant
16 mortality rates in the United States, with 9.0 deaths per one thousand live births compared
17 to the national average of 5.6, according to America's Health Rankings.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
19 does hereby recognize Friday, May 22, 2026, as World Preeclampsia Awareness Day in the
20 state of Louisiana and does hereby commend Woman's Hospital for its dedication to
21 life-saving care for pregnant women to help reduce preventable maternal and infant deaths
22 and reduce the number of preterm births.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Rene
24 Ragas, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Woman's Hospital.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, 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)]
