

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

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

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

WHEREAS, World Preeclampsia Day is observed annually on May 22, to raise global awareness of preeclampsia, a serious pregnancy related condition that poses significant risks to maternal and infant health; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE