

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 280

BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE

A RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, May 18, 2026, as Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is an intestinal disease that primarily affects premature and medically fragile infants; the disease causes a severe inflammatory process that can lead to intestinal tissue damage and is the most common cause of death in hospitalized premature infants after two weeks of age; and

WHEREAS, babies born prematurely or with a medical complication, like congenital heart disease, are most at risk of NEC; thousands of babies develop NEC each year, and hundreds of babies die from this complex intestinal condition; many babies only live for a few hours or days after NEC is diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, surgery for NEC is not curative, and babies who survive often have lifelong neurological and nutritional complications; and

WHEREAS, NEC results in significant hospitalization expenses per year and roughly nineteen percent of neonatal healthcare expenditures in the United States, with an estimated cost of two hundred thousand dollars or more for each case of surgical necrotizing enterocolitis; and

WHEREAS, although the risk of necrotizing enterocolitis cannot be fully eliminated, preventative measures are effective at reducing risks; feeding breast milk is one of the most effective ways to help prevent necrotizing enterocolitis in medically fragile infants; and

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

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

WHEREAS, to build a world without necrotizing enterocolitis and improve outcomes for infants and families, awareness must be raised about this devastating neonatal disease.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES