

1 A RESOLUTION declaring October 5, 2020, to be Ostomy Awareness Day.

2 WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 ostomy surgeries are performed annually in the  
3 United States; and

4 WHEREAS, an ostomy procedure is a type of surgery necessary when a person has  
5 lost the normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, colorectal  
6 cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, ostomies are also necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic  
9 trauma resulting from accidents or from injuries sustained during military service; and

10 WHEREAS, largely through the efforts of United Ostomy Associations of America  
11 and its over 300 affiliated support groups, persons needing these surgeries are becoming  
12 more aware of the opportunities for education, mutual aid, advocacy, and support that are  
13 of such great benefit to them and their families; and

14 WHEREAS, people who have had an ostomy procedure live full and meaningful  
15 lives that include swimming, working, playing sports, and having relationships with  
16 friends and family; and

17 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is committed to increasing public  
18 understanding of ostomy procedures to eventually help dispel the fear of those about to  
19 undergo this surgery, as well as the fear that confronts their families; and

20 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky recognizes public education and  
21 awareness as vital to ensure those who are living with an ostomy device face no  
22 discrimination and are treated as normal, healthy individuals; and

23 WHEREAS, Ostomy Awareness Day is recognized across the United States to  
24 increase public acceptance of ostomy surgery and continent diversion surgery and to help  
25 the citizens better understand that ostomies are life-saving and life-restoring surgeries;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*

1 ***Kentucky:***

2       ➔Section 1. This honorable body declares October 5, 2020, to be Ostomy  
3 Awareness Day.

4       ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
5 Resolution to Senator Ralph Alvarado.