



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS:

An ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening (stoma) in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste when a person has lost the normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to a variety of medical conditions or in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma; and
- WHEREAS:

Approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans have an ostomy, with approximately 100,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year, affecting individuals across all ages and backgrounds; and
- WHEREAS:

Georgia is committed to increasing public understanding of “ostomy” to dispel the fear of those about to undergo this surgery, as well as the fear that confronts their families. This day can serve as a reminder to the American public that this is a lifesaving and life-restoring surgery; and
- WHEREAS:

The state also recognizes the need for awareness to increase public acceptance of ostomy and continent diversion surgery to ensure those impacted receive the proper care and acceptance as any other American would. With Ostomy Awareness Day, the myths, stigma, and embarrassment surrounding the surgery can therefore be erased; now
- THEREFORE:

I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 3rd, 2026, as OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 31st day of July in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



B:fh

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF