



SR0696

LRB104 21181 ECR 35616 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is the most
3 common cause of death in hospitalized, premature infants after
4 two weeks of age; and

5 WHEREAS, Babies born prematurely or with a medical
6 complication, including congenital heart disease, are most at
7 risk of NEC; and

8 WHEREAS, Thousands of babies develop NEC each year and
9 hundreds of babies die from this complex intestinal condition;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, NEC causes a severe inflammatory process that can
12 lead to intestinal tissue damage and death, and once NEC is
13 diagnosed, many babies only live for a few hours or days; and

14 WHEREAS, Surgery for NEC is not curative, and babies who
15 survive often have lifelong neurological and nutritional
16 complications; and

17 WHEREAS, NEC results in approximately \$5,000,000,000 in
18 hospitalization expenses each year and roughly 19% of neonatal
19 healthcare expenditures in the United States, with an
20 estimated cost of \$200,000 or more for each case of surgical

1 NEC; and

2 WHEREAS, Breast milk is one of the most effective ways to
3 help prevent NEC in medically fragile infants, and when the
4 mother's milk is unavailable, pasteurized human donor milk is
5 the next safest option for babies at risk of NEC; and

6 WHEREAS, Formula does not protect against the risk of NEC
7 in medically fragile infants, and infants at risk of NEC
8 receive the most protection from their mother's own milk and
9 pasteurized human donor milk; and

10 WHEREAS, Although the risk of NEC cannot be fully
11 eliminated and there are not yet certain ways to stop or cure
12 NEC, preventative measures are effective at reducing the risk
13 of NEC; and

14 WHEREAS, Parents must be trusted and valued as the most
15 important member of their baby's care team, and healthcare
16 providers should partner with families to provide the best
17 care for infants at risk of NEC; and

18 WHEREAS, NEC can develop in both premature babies and
19 babies born at term, and more data is needed to better
20 understand how and why NEC occurs in preterm and full-term
21 infants; and

1 WHEREAS, Disparities and variation in care lead to Black
2 infants being disproportionately affected by and dying from
3 NEC compared to White infants; and

4 WHEREAS, The NEC Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
5 organization founded and led by a bereaved mother whose son
6 died from complications of NEC, and it is the world's leading
7 charity working to accelerate NEC research, education, and
8 advocacy; and

9 WHEREAS, In order to build a world without NEC and to
10 improve outcomes for infants and families affected by this
11 condition, it is vital to raise awareness about this
12 devastating neonatal disease; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 2026 as
15 NEC Awareness Month and May 17, 2026 as NEC Awareness Day in
16 the State of Illinois to encourage increased public awareness,
17 education, and research efforts related to necrotizing
18 enterocolitis (NEC) and support for families affected by this
19 disease.