

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Ostomy Awareness Day is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of October; and
- WHEREAS,** an ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening 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 birth defects, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions and in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or from injuries sustained during military service; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans have an ostomy, with approximately 100,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year; and
- WHEREAS,** ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and affects people from all ethnic backgrounds; and
- WHEREAS,** largely through the efforts of United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc., (UOAA) and its over 275 affiliated support groups in the United States, those needing these surgeries are becoming more aware of the opportunities for education, mutual aid, advocacy and support that are of such great benefit to them and their families; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is committed to increasing public understanding of “ostomy” to dispel the fear of those about to undergo this surgery, as well as their families that this is a lifesaving and life-restoring surgery; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont recognizes the need that public education and awareness is vital to ensure those who are living with an ostomy face no discrimination and are accepted as normal, healthy individuals and through education and awareness, we can erase the myths, stigma and embarrassment that are sometimes associated with having an ostomy; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont along with other government and private sectors are deeply committed to the proper care and advancement of knowledge about bowel and urinary diversion surgery as a result of birth defects, disease, injury and other digestive disorders; and
- WHEREAS,** designating a day will help to better understand that “ostomies are lifesavers” and increase public acceptance of ostomy surgery and continent diversion surgery.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim the 5th day of October, 2024
as

OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 4th day of October, A.D. 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs