



Sample proclamation:

Support from a Governor, Federal or State Legislator, Mayor or local governing body can increase awareness about World Ostomy Day. Use the sample below to request public recognition of World Ostomy Day through a proclamation – a government document that officially recognizes an observance in your community.

### World Ostomy Day “Speaking Out Changes Lives”

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 birth defects, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions. They are also necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or from injuries sustained during military service. The bodily waste passes through the stoma into an ostomy ‘pouch’ on the outside of the body or in the case of continent diversion surgeries, an internal surgically created reservoir.

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 does not lower life expectancy and

WHEREAS, largely through the efforts of United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc., (UOAA) and its over 300 Affiliated Support Groups, Americans 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, World Ostomy Day is also sponsored by the International Ostomy Association and is celebrated every three years. The last World Ostomy Day was held in 2015. The aim of World Ostomy Day is to improve

the rehabilitation of ostomates worldwide by bringing to the attention of the general public and the global community the needs and aspirations of ostomates and

WHEREAS [community, area, or organization] is committed to increasing public understanding of “ostomy” to eventually help 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 life-saving and life-restoring surgery and

WHEREAS [community, area, or organization] 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. Through education and awareness we can erase the myths, stigma and embarrassment that are sometimes associated with having an ostomy and

WHEREAS [community, area, or organization] and 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, to increase public acceptance of ostomy surgery and continent diversion surgery and to remind the those who have had surgery in [city/town, state name] that by “speaking out” they can help the world better understand this lifesaving surgery and help people receive better ostomy care. -[community, area, or organization] is recognizing the first Saturday of October, **October 6, 2018**, as “World Ostomy Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, [I/we] , \_\_\_\_\_ of the [city/town/state], do hereby proclaim **October 6, 2018** as “World Ostomy Day – Speaking Out Changes Lives”, and I call upon all residents of the [city/town/state] to unite on this day in a showing of support.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.