

**2021 RES-204**  
**RECOGNIZING WORLD OSTOMY 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 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 childbirth or 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; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans have an ostomy, with approximately 100,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year; ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and does not lower life expectancy; ostomy or continent diversion surgery does not discriminate and quality ostomy care should be provided to all regardless of race/ethnicity, age, gender, religion, place of birth, health or other status; and

**WHEREAS**, Dane County 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**, Dane County recognizes 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes October 2, 2021 as World Ostomy Day and encourages residents of Dane County to support quality health care for all ostomates in all healthcare settings.

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Analiese Eicher, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk