

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 789

By Hill M

A RESOLUTION to commemorate October 12, 2020, as "Stillbirth Awareness and Remembrance Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, stillbirth is the death of an infant in utero at twenty or more completed gestational weeks; more than 24,000 babies are reported as stillborn in the United States each year. Worldwide there are over 2.6 million reported stillbirths annually; and

WHEREAS, one in 100 American pregnancies ends in stillbirth; almost fifty percent of these deaths occur at or near full term and often seem to be otherwise healthy babies; many Tennessee parents and families have suffered the death of a stillbirth; and

WHEREAS, it is a great tragedy to lose the life of a child, no matter the age; and

WHEREAS, even the shortest lives are valuable, and the grief of those who mourn the loss of these lives should not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, this devastating tragedy often occurs before delivery, and it is estimated that nearly two-thirds of all stillbirth deaths remain unexplained. Researchers feel that this is more likely due to a failure to investigate the deaths, rather than a medical mystery; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of and education about the causes and impacts surrounding pregnancy and stillbirth may lead to greater understanding and support in communities across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a day of remembrance honors the lives of children who never took a breath outside the mother's womb and supports grieving parents, grandparents, siblings, and other family members whose lives are forever altered by the heartbreak of losing a child; and

WHEREAS, those parents and families deserve and require support and understanding during their time of grief; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy of a stillbirth exacts a terrible emotional toll, and promoting awareness of the challenges faced by those parents and families is a positive means of establishing support and understanding; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers should be educated about stillbirth and the importance of monitoring a child still in the womb; and

WHEREAS, October 12<sup>th</sup> is an appropriate day to commemorate "Stillbirth Awareness and Remembrance Day" because October is recognized across the United States and in many nations around the world as a month of remembrance and awareness of pregnancy and infant loss; and

WHEREAS, the observance of "Stillbirth Awareness and Remembrance Day" offers us the opportunity to increase our understanding of the great tragedy involved in the death of a child in the womb. It also enables us to consider how, as individuals and communities, we can meet the needs of bereaved parents and family members and work to prevent such losses where possible; and

WHEREAS, local, state, national, and international support groups are supplying programs and strategies designed to help parents cope with their loss. Parents who have suffered their loss, healthcare professionals, and specially trained hospital staff members are helping newly bereaved parents deal constructively with loss; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate October 12, 2020, as "Stillbirth Awareness and Remembrance Day" in Tennessee to promote awareness of persons grieving a stillbirth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.