



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, *Ostomy* is a type of surgery which allows for the elimination of body waste when a person has lost the normal function of their digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, cancer, inflammatory bowel and related diseases, injury or other disorders; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 750,000 people in the United States have had *Ostomy* surgery and approximately 130,000 new surgeries are performed annually; and

WHEREAS, the word "*Ostomy*" has caused concern and fear in people faced with surgery; fear of being stigmatized; fear of the unknown; not being able to live a full and productive life; being rejected by friends and loved ones; and being discriminated against for employment or in obtaining insurance; and

WHEREAS, through education and awareness, it is hoped that much of the fear and misunderstanding associated with *Ostomy* surgery can be alleviated; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government in the State of New Jersey and the private sector are deeply committed to the proper care of *Ostomy* patients and advancement of knowledge about bowel and urinary diversions and public education about *Ostomy*; and

WHEREAS, the *Ostomy* Association of Southern New Jersey, an affiliate of the United *Ostomy* Associations of America, Inc., is a nonprofit, peer-led, volunteer-managed, and mutual aid support group committed to the improvement of the quality of life of all *ostomy* patients;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 1, 2016

AS

OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY

in New Jersey and encourage all residents of this great State to take advantage of the cultural riches New Jersey has to offer.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-first day of September in the year two thousand sixteen, the two hundred forty-first year of the Independence of the United States.

*Kim Guadagno*  
Lt. GOVERNOR

*Chris Christie*  
GOVERNOR