

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1809

A RESOLUTION recognizing Justin Cessna for bringing the issue of health care provider coverage of bariatric surgical procedures to the attention of the Kansas Legislature and thanking the individuals who helped him receive this life-saving procedure.

WHEREAS, Bariatric surgery refers to the various surgical procedures performed to treat obesity by modification of the gastrointestinal tract to reduce nutrient intake and absorption; and

WHEREAS, During the 2008 Session, Justin Cessna brought the issue of health care provider coverage of bariatric surgical procedures to the Kansas Legislature, leading to the passage of House Bill 2672; and

WHEREAS, Justin Cessna was told by his doctors that unless he had a bariatric surgical procedure performed his life was at risk; and

WHEREAS, Medical studies have shown that long-term total mortality after bariatric surgery is significantly reduced, particularly for mortality rates from diabetes and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, Justin Cessna's bariatric surgical procedure was only made possible by the generosity of Dr. Bernita Berntsen of Tallgrass General, Vascular and Bariatric Surgery, who performed the surgery; Dr. James Hamilton, who advocated for Mr. Cessna and provided the surgical band for the procedure; Dr. David Bishop, who was the anesthesiologist for the procedure; and Michael Schrader, the President and CEO of St. Francis Health Center, who provided the facilities necessary for the procedure; and

WHEREAS, As a result of Justin Cessna's willingness to set aside his right to privacy to put a human face on the plight of the morbidly obese, Mr. Cessna not only received a life-saving procedure through the generosity of these individuals, but he has brought the issue of health care provider coverage of bariatric surgical procedures to the public's attention: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize Justin Cessna for bringing the issue of health care provider coverage of bariatric surgical procedures to the attention of the Kansas Legislature and that we thank those individuals whose generosity enabled him to receive this life-saving procedure.

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate is directed to provide 6 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Barnett.

Senate Resolution No. 1809 was sponsored by Senator Jim Barnett.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*