



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**JOSH STEIN  
GOVERNOR**

May 17, 2026

NEC Society  
UNC School of Medicine  
116 Manning Drive  
Mary Ellen Jones Building, 5th Floor  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Friends,

I am writing to acknowledge May 17 as NEC Awareness Day. This day is dedicated to spreading awareness and knowledge about necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a serious intestinal illness primarily affecting premature infants.

While NEC may develop in any newborn, 90% of cases occur in infants born prematurely. Thousands of babies develop NEC each year and hundreds die from this complex intestinal condition. Surgery for NEC is not curative, and the babies who survive often have lifelong neurological and nutritional complications.

I commend the NEC Society for its dedication to promoting awareness of this illness to ensure infants with NEC get the best possible treatment. I want to also recognize the medical researchers who are searching for ways to prevent NEC. Above all, my heart goes out to the children and families affected by this illness.

This May 17, I ask all North Carolinians to join me in recognizing NEC Awareness Day. May we take this opportunity to educate ourselves and offer support to those families grieving the heartbreaking death of a child due to NEC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Stein".

Josh Stein  
Governor