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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**PROCLAIMING APRIL 25, 2011, AS MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AWARENESS DAY IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, Petrarca, Keable, Costa, and Watson

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In support of the Rhode Island Muscular Dystrophy Clinic and Muscular
2 Dystrophy Awareness, we hereby declare April 25, 2011, to be Muscular Dystrophy Awareness
3 Day in the State of Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, The term Muscular Dystrophy refers to a group of genetic diseases marked
5 by progressive weakness and degeneration of the skeletal, or voluntary, muscles which control
6 movement. The muscles of the heart and some other involuntary muscles are also affected by
7 some forms of muscular dystrophy, and a few forms involve other organs, as well; and

8 WHEREAS, Muscular Dystrophy can affect people of all ages. While some forms first
9 become apparent in infancy or childhood, others may not appear until middle age or later. With
10 improved medical care, particularly of problems affecting the heart and lungs, children with
11 muscular dystrophy are living further into adulthood than ever before; and

12 WHEREAS, The major forms of muscular dystrophy are myotonic, Duchenne, Becker,
13 limb girdle, facioscapulohumeral, congenital, oculopharyngeal, distal, and Emery-Dreifuss; and

14 WHEREAS, The major forms of muscular dystrophy differ in severity, age of onset,
15 muscles first and most often affected, the rate at which systems progress, and the way the
16 disorders are inherited; and

17 WHEREAS, Flaws in muscular protein genes cause muscular dystrophies. Each cell in
18 our bodies contains tens of thousands of genes. Each gene is a string of the chemical DNA and is
19 the “code” for a protein. If the code for a protein is wrong, the protein is made wrong, or in the

1 wrong amount, or sometimes not at all; and

2 WHEREAS, Muscular Dystrophies are generally inherited, but in some cases no family
3 history of the disease may exist and, consequently, muscular dystrophies can be inherited. It is
4 important for a doctor to know if anyone in the family ever had a similar disorder and a doctor
5 makes a diagnosis by evaluating the patient's medical history and by performing a thorough
6 physical examination that may include costly DNA testing; and

7 WHEREAS, There is no cure for muscular dystrophy and its incidence varies, as some
8 forms are more common than others. Its most common forms in children, Duchenne and Becker
9 muscular dystrophy, alone affect approximately 1 in every 3,500 to 5,000 boys, or between 400
10 and 600 live male births each year in the United States; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
12 Providence Plantations hereby extends our support and gratitude to the Rhode Island Muscular
13 Dystrophy Clinic and its Director, James Gilchrist, M.D., for caring for and offering hope to all
14 Southern New Englanders with Muscular Dystrophy; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That April 25, 2011, be declared Rhode Island Muscular Dystrophy Day;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. James Gilchrist, Director of the MDA clinic
19 located at Rhode Island Hospital.

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