

**2016 -- H 7170**

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LC003043  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**RECOGNIZING THE FETUS AS A HUMAN LIFE UPON THE EXISTENCE OF A  
HEARTBEAT**

Introduced By: Representatives McLaughlin, Azzinaro, Costantino, Edwards, and Hull

Date Introduced: January 14, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

1           WHEREAS, There exists a continuing debate in this nation and state as to abortion and  
2           ascertaining the moment that human life begins; and

3           WHEREAS, Upon fertilization, an egg becomes a zygote. Shortly thereafter, the zygote  
4           splits into two cells, and is called a two-celled embryo. When it splits into four cells, it is called a  
5           four-celled embryo, etc.; and

6           WHEREAS, If an embryo is then nourished and protected, it will proceed, uninterrupted,  
7           through the developmental stages from embryo to fetus; and

8           WHEREAS, There is sound scientific evidence that the heart of a fetus begins beating at  
9           about the eighteenth through the twenty-fourth day of fetal development and that this heartbeat,  
10          sometimes described as a "flutter", indicates and is recognized as the existence of life; and

11          WHEREAS, Today, advances in medical care have greatly improved the chances for  
12          survival of fetuses born preterm; now, therefore be it

13          RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
14          Providence Plantations hereby recognizes that the existence of a fetal heartbeat or flutter is  
15          evidence of the existence of human life and that advancements in the field of prenatal care are  
16          dramatically improving survival for babies born preterm.

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