

**2019 -- H 5899**

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LC000521  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

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

**PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2019, AS "BLEEDING DISORDERS  
AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, Morin, Jackson, and Casey

Date Introduced: March 26, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, In March of 2016, The United States Department of Health and Human  
2 Services approved the inclusion of Bleeding Disorders Month on its National Observances  
3 Calendar. Subsequently, March of each year is now officially recognized nationally as "Bleeding  
4 Disorders Awareness Month" in the United States; and

5           WHEREAS, This designation formalized and expanded upon the designation 33 years  
6 ago of March, 1986, as "Hemophilia Awareness Month" by President Ronald Reagan; and

7           WHEREAS, These bleeding disorders, which share the inability to form a proper blood  
8 clot, are characterized by extended bleeding and can lead to significant morbidity and can be fatal  
9 if not treated effectively; and

10          WHEREAS, Many individuals with hemophilia became infected with HIV and Hepatitis  
11 C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products; and

12          WHEREAS, This Awareness Month will generate greater awareness and understanding  
13 of not only hemophilia but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand Disease,  
14 which alone impacts an estimated 1.4 million Americans; with an estimated 1,100 individuals  
15 suffering from hemophilia and other inheritable bleeding disorders in Rhode Island; and

16          WHEREAS, This Awareness Month will foster a greater sense of community and shared  
17 purpose among individuals with all inheritable bleeding disorders; and

18          WHEREAS, This Awareness Month will elevate awareness of and engagement in the  
19 inheritable bleeding disorders journey beyond our community to the general public, enabling the

1 prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures, and disability; now, therefore be it

2           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
3 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims March, 2019, as "Bleeding Disorders Awareness  
4 Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Richard Pezzillo, Executive Director, New  
7 England Hemophilia Association.

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