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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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

PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 1-7, 2019, TO BE "NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Cassar, Kislak, Phillips, Canario, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: April 03, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, National Public Health Week is observed annually the first full week of
2 April. It is organized by the American Public Health Association with week-long activities
3 designed to educate and highlight issues that are critically important to the health of the American
4 people and to accomplish the goal of improving the public's general health. Each day of the week
5 a different theme is highlighted and discussed; and

6 WHEREAS, On Monday the theme was Healthy Communities. Science has shown and
7 proven that the health, longevity and well-being of people are connected to the places in which
8 they live, work, learn, worship and play. For example, at least four million United States
9 households are home to children who are being exposed to high levels of lead, with about six
10 million homes considered to be substandard; and

11 WHEREAS, Tuesday's theme is Violence Prevention. National data shows that gun-
12 related deaths are rising. Between 2015 and 2016, the United States was home to nearly 27,400,
13 homicides and nearly 45,000 suicides involving guns. These numbers are the highest levels
14 documented in a decade. Additionally, one in four women experience some form of partner
15 violence, and one of every six American women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape.
16 Also, in 2016, 676,000 victims of child abuse and neglect were reported to local authorities and
17 officials; and

18 WHEREAS, Wednesday's theme is Rural Health. America's rural communities are
19 suffering from a host of health disparities including suffering from higher rates of chronic

1 diseases and from limited access to primary care and prevention services. People living in rural
2 areas are at a greater risk of dying from the five leading causes of death, which include heart
3 disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease and stroke. Suicide rates
4 are also higher in rural America than in urban areas, and the gap has been steadily growing since
5 2000; and

6 WHEREAS, Thursday's focus is on Technology and Health. New technologies are
7 rapidly transforming the public health landscape. Examples of this phenomenon include state
8 environmental health tracking programs using spatial analysis and visualization methods to help
9 predict people's hazardous exposure risks. Online learning communities are helping health
10 practitioners and organizers to share best practices, and workers in our nation's health laboratories
11 are using the latest technology to rapidly detect, trace, and contain disease outbreaks; and

12 WHEREAS, Friday's theme is Climate Change and its negative impact on the nation's
13 public health. Climate change is linked to more frequent and extreme natural disasters such as
14 hurricanes, flooding and drought, and is expected to negatively impact food security, water and
15 air quality, and to exacerbate the risks of vector-borne diseases such as the West Nile Virus and
16 Lyme Disease. Climate change is also expected to disproportionately impact already vulnerable
17 populations such as the elderly, children, those living in poverty, and those suffering from chronic
18 diseases; and

19 WHEREAS, The focus for the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, is Global Health. The
20 health and well-being of Americans is fundamentally linked and connected to the global
21 community. Pandemic viruses can quickly travel throughout the globe, and therefore will require
22 global efforts and cooperation to track and contain such threats. Research also shows that
23 American investment in global health is good for the United States economy. A recent 2015 study
24 shows that 89 cents of every United States government dollar directed towards global health
25 research and development was invested in America, putting billions of dollars into the United
26 States economy; now, therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
28 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims the Week of April 1-7, 2019, to be "National Public
29 Health Week" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of Rhode Island, the Honorable
3 Gina M. Raimondo, and to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, Nicole
4 Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH.

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