RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP DECLARE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOR THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Algiere, and Miller

Date Introduced: March 12, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization most recently declared the Coronavirus outbreak to be a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, As of March 12, 2020, there have been approximately 133,065 Coronavirus cases worldwide, with approximately 4,947 deaths. In the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been 1,319 Coronavirus cases and 38 deaths. All of these numbers are expected to increase exponentially; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approximately $42.643 billion in the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) that would instantly be available, if the President declared a national emergency, to assist state and local governments in their efforts to mitigate the Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Declaring a national emergency would also allow FEMA to deploy personnel to states and local communities to assist with planning and on-the-ground activities to contain the Coronavirus; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the President of the United States declare a national emergency for the coronavirus and urges the President and the Federal Government to work and consult closely with State Governors and local leaders as we all work together to contain the Coronavirus Pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed
transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
the United States, and the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, Senator Jack Reed, Senator
Sheldon Whitehouse, Representative James R. Langevin, and Representative David N. Cicilline.

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