

2021 -- H 6369

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LC002728  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 25, 2021, TO BE "STOP THE STIGMA DAY" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Casimiro, Alzate,  
Potter, Hull, Knight, Carson, and Ajello

Date Introduced: May 27, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Every day, millions of people face stigma related to mental illness, causing  
2 many to face their mental health challenges for years without help: and

3 WHEREAS, Half of the population will experience some type of mental health challenge  
4 over the course of a lifetime; and

5 WHEREAS, In a study by Gomo Health, it was found that nearly 90 percent of people  
6 with mental health problems say that stigma and discrimination have a negative effect on their  
7 lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Anxiety disorders are the most common mental health issue in America,  
9 with over 40 million people suffering from it; and

10 WHEREAS, Negative stigma can affect people with mental health in many ways  
11 including, decreased feelings of self-worth and self-esteem, delays in seeking or receiving  
12 treatment, increased homelessness and unemployment, and higher rates of incarceration; and

13 WHEREAS, The stigma that surrounds mental health puts up a barrier that we all need to  
14 work to take down with a combination of education, awareness, and resources; and

15 WHEREAS, In order to overcome the stigma against mental illness in our society, we  
16 must show compassion for those with mental illness, increase access to support systems, talk  
17 openly about mental health, and encourage individuals to seek the help and treatment they need;  
18 now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby

1 proclaims May 25, 2021, to be "Stop the Stigma Day" and urges communities to increase  
2 awareness and education about mental health issues so that everyone feels comfortable reaching  
3 out for the support they deserve; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
5 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the  
6 State of Rhode Island, Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director, Rhode Department of  
7 Health, and John Brett, PhD, Program Director, Partial Hospitalization Program at Newport  
8 Hospital.

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