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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING MAY OF 2021 AS "MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH" AND  
MAY 20TH OF 2021 AS "MENTAL HEALTH ACTION DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE  
ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, Coyne, Miller, Picard, Lawson, Rogers, Burke,  
Lombardo, Quezada, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: May 20, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Since 1949, Mental Health America, joined by organizations from across  
2 the country, have led the observance of May as Mental Health Month, with the mission of raising  
3 awareness and educating the public about mental illnesses. This year marks its 72nd Anniversary;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month strives to reduce the stigma, the negative  
6 attitudes and misconceptions, that surround mental illnesses; and

7           WHEREAS, One of the main reasons why individuals do not seek professional help is  
8 due to the stigma that surrounds mental health. Individuals are afraid to seek the help and  
9 treatment they need because they may be judged, ridiculed and shunned by others or they may  
10 even judge themselves and as a result, they often live in silence about their undiagnosed mental  
11 health disorder; and

12           WHEREAS, Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental  
13 health condition. Anyone can experience the challenges of mental illness regardless of their  
14 background, age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

15           WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 19.1 percent of adults  
16 living in the United States have experienced an anxiety disorder in the past year and nearly 1 in  
17 25 adults in America are living with a serious mental illness; and

18           WHEREAS, Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in the United States and according  
19 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data & Statistics, 12 million adults, age

1 18 or older thought about trying to kill themselves in 2019; and

2 WHEREAS, Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental  
3 health condition. Mental Health Awareness Month is a time to bring about change through  
4 compassion, concern, open-mindedness, and understanding, and to celebrate the journeys of  
5 resiliency and recovery of individuals living with mental illness; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates May  
7 of 2021 as "Mental Health Awareness Month", and May 20th of 2021 as "Mental Health Action  
8 Day", and urges schools, businesses, government agencies, and health-care providers to commit  
9 to promoting and ensuring innovative prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and to spreading  
10 awareness through education programs and understanding for mental health issues; and be it  
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral  
14 Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals and the Mental Health Association of  
15 Rhode Island (MHARI).

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