

2012 -- H 8184

=====
LC02662
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY, 2012, AS "HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH" IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, and Costa

Date Introduced: May 22, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Hepatitis Awareness Month presents an opportunity to raise awareness of
2 liver disease and hepatitis and support for the dedicated efforts of the American Liver
3 Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver caused by a wide variety of factors.
5 One of the most common causes of chronic hepatitis is viral infection; and

6 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B and C are two such viruses that together kill approximately one
7 million people each year; and

8 WHEREAS, Five hundred million people around the world are currently infected with
9 chronic Hepatitis B or C, and one in three people has been exposed to one or both viruses; and

10 WHEREAS, The Hepatitis B virus is a highly communicable disease that is spread
11 through direct contact with infected blood, as well as most major bodily fluids; and

12 WHEREAS, The Hepatitis C virus is spread through direct contact with infected blood,
13 but in rare cases it may be passed on through other bodily fluids; and

14 WHEREAS, There is no vaccination for Hepatitis C, but Hepatitis B can be prevented
15 through effective vaccination; and

16 WHEREAS, Many people do not have any symptoms if they contract Hepatitis B or C,
17 although they can still transmit the viruses to others and, if left untreated and unmanaged,
18 Hepatitis B or C can lead to advanced liver scarring (cirrhosis) and other serious complications,
19 including liver cancer and liver failure; and

1 WHEREAS, The World Hepatitis Alliance is a non-governmental organization that
2 represents approximately 280 Hepatitis B and C patient groups from around the world. Acting as
3 a coalition of advocacy groups, the World Hepatitis Alliance is a global voice for the 500 million
4 people worldwide living with chronic viral Hepatitis B or C; and

5 WHEREAS, The American Liver Foundation is an organization that formed in 1976 in
6 order to facilitate, advocate, and promote education, support, and research for the prevention,
7 treatment, and cure of liver disease. The American Liver Foundation is taking a leadership role in
8 advocating on behalf of the millions of Americans and their families living with liver disease and
9 its negative impact on health; and

10 WHEREAS, Hepatitis Awareness Month is observed every year during the month of
11 May. The first Rhode Island Hepatitis Awareness Day will take place on Sunday, May 20, 2012,
12 and the fifth annual World Hepatitis Day will take place on Saturday, July 28, 2012: now,
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims the month of May to be “Hepatitis Awareness Month.”
16 We furthermore extend our support and gratitude to the American Liver Foundation for leading
17 the charge to raise awareness and help cure liver disease; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to The American Liver Foundation’s New
20 England headquarters in Newton, Massachusetts.

=====
LC02662
=====