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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES SURGEON  
GENERAL'S FIRST REPORT ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Ackerman, Slater, Valencia, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 14, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, On January 11, 1964, the first United States governmental report on the  
2 negative consequences of smoking was released by then United States Surgeon General Dr.  
3 Luther Terry. This report, and subsequent reports by United States Surgeon General, have  
4 increased our understanding of the devastating health and financial burdens caused by tobacco  
5 use; and

6           WHEREAS, Rhode Island Health Director Michael D. Fine succinctly described the  
7 impact of this anniversary when he said, "The acknowledgement by the United States  
8 Government that smoking causes disease, and in particular fatal lung cancer, ranks with the  
9 chlorination of water, the development of vaccines, and the eradication of smallpox as one of the  
10 signal moments in public health. If a lifetime pack-a-day smoker were given a choice in 1964 of a  
11 way to increase longevity of either quitting smoking or having free access to the best medical care  
12 in the world, there is no question now which would be the right choice. It's quitting smoking. And  
13 it all flowed from the Surgeon General's report of 1964"; and

14           WHEREAS, Smoking causes a host of cancers and other illnesses and is the leading  
15 preventable cause of death in the United States, killing 443,000 people each year; and

16           WHEREAS, Smoking is estimated to increase the risk of coronary heart disease by 2 to 4  
17 times, the risk of stroke by 2 to 4 times, the risk of men developing lung cancer by 23 times and  
18 the risk of women developing lung cancer by 13 times. If a person has asthma, tobacco use can  
19 trigger an attack or make an attack worse. Smokers are 12 to 13 times more likely to die from

1 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease than nonsmokers. Cigarette smoking can make it harder  
2 for a woman to get pregnant and can affect her baby's health before and after birth. Smoking  
3 increases the risks for early deliver, stillbirth, low birth weight and for Sudden Infant Death  
4 Syndrome (SIDS). Smoking can make diabetes harder to control and can increase the risk of  
5 cataracts; and

6 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking can cause cancer almost anywhere in the human body  
7 including the bladder, bone marrow and blood, cervix, esophagus, kidneys and ureters, larynx,  
8 lungs, mouth, nose and throat, pancreas, stomach and trachea; and

9 WHEREAS, Quitting smoking cuts cardiovascular risks. Just one year after quitting  
10 smoking, the risk of a heart attack drops sharply. Within two to five years of quitting smoking,  
11 the risk of stroke falls to about the same as a nonsmoker. If one quits smoking, their risks for  
12 cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and bladder drop by half within five years. Ten years  
13 after one quits smoking, their risk for lung cancer drops by half; and

14 WHEREAS, As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic release of the first  
15 United States Surgeon General's Report, the Office of the United States Surgeon General will be  
16 working to increase awareness of the lessons learned and the progress that has taken place during  
17 the last 50 years of tobacco control efforts. An important part of this fight is engaging existing  
18 tobacco control, public health, and wellness partners, as well as partnerships with organizations  
19 new to this cause; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
21 Providence Plantations hereby commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First United States  
22 Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to United States Surgeon General Regina Marcia  
25 Benjamin.

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