

2016 -- H 8234

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LC006015
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

DECLARING MAY 19, 2016, TO BE "RECOVERY ADVOCACY DAY" IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Fellela, Hearn, Marcello, and Costantino

Date Introduced: May 19, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Addiction is a disease that many people suffer from on a daily basis.
2 Currently, 23 million people in the United States and 65,000 Rhode Islanders from all walks of
3 life are living in recovery from substance abuse disorder. In Rhode Island, 92,000 people are
4 battling substance use disorder and 257 people have tragically lost their lives due to opioid
5 overdose in 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
7 Administration (SAMHSA), recovery is defined as being "a process of change through which
8 individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full
9 potential. Recovery is built on access to evidence-based clinical treatment and recovery support
10 services for all populations"; and

11 WHEREAS, The recovery process differs from person to person and can occur through
12 the use of many different strategies. It can include the use of clinical treatment, the support of
13 friends, peers and faith-based communities, and through medication. The Substance Abuse and
14 Mental Health Administration believes that the recovery process often includes both growth and
15 setbacks, and given that setbacks are a regular occurrence in everyone's life, resilience is a crucial
16 part of recovery. Resilience, according to SAMHSA, "develops over time....and refers to an
17 individual's ability to cope with adversity and adapt to challenges or change"; and

18 WHEREAS, Another critical aspect of the recovery process is the role played by Peer
19 Recovery Specialists (PRS). Peer Recovery Specialists help their peers pinpoint their goals for
20 recovery, assist them in their treatment, and develop effective coping strategies, and assist them

1 in advocating for themselves in order to gain access to needed services; and

2 WHEREAS, While addiction is a disease many Rhode Islanders struggle with, let us
3 never lose sight of the fact that recovery is possible. Every day, thanks to the support of loved
4 ones, friends, peers, faith-based communities, and qualified professionals, people recover from
5 addiction and go on to lead quality lives with their families and friends in the workplace, and
6 within their communities; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the state of Rhode Island and
8 Providence Plantations hereby declares May 19, 2016, to be "Recovery Advocacy Day" in Rhode
9 Island; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to send
11 a duly certified copy of this resolution to Maria Montanaro, MSW, Director, Rhode Island
12 Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

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