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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

**EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE
JUNE 12, 2016, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, NIGHTCLUB MASSACRE**

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Carson, McKiernan, O`Grady, and Marshall

Date Introduced: June 15, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2016, a lone gun man entered the LGBT nightclub Pulse in
2 Orlando, Florida, and opened fire with an AR-15 style rifle and handgun, killing forty-nine
3 individuals and wounding 53 others before being killed by members of the Orlando Police
4 Department's SWAT team, according to authorities. This act of domestic terrorism is the deadliest
5 incident in American history of violence against the LGBT community and is the deadliest attack
6 on United States soil since 9-11; and

7 WHEREAS, The massacre was immediately labeled as an act of terrorism and a hate
8 crime by President Barack Obama, the Orlando Police Chief and other authorities. The suspect, a
9 United States citizen, had been accused in the past of voicing hateful statements towards gays,
10 African-Americans, women and Jews; and

11 WHEREAS, This cowardly massacre was an assault on all the freedoms and liberties that
12 we, as free people hold dear. It was an attack against free association and against our way of life
13 as Americans, and we must unite and work together to fight this kind of hatred and violence; and

14 WHEREAS, Most Americans are tolerant and compassionate people and it was
15 heartening to see that in the midst of this terrible tragedy, the Orlando community rallied around
16 the victims. Hundreds of people immediately lined up to donate their blood to those who were
17 wounded, and within twenty-four hours, more than a million dollars had been raised to aid the
18 victims and their families; now, therefore be it

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

1 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of
2 the Orlando nightclub shooting; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit a duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
5 the United States, and to Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida.

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