

2017 -- H 5528

LC001430

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2017, AS "TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH"

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, McEntee, Casimiro, Fogarty, and Carson

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, One in four Rhode Islanders report being the victim of verbal, physical,
2 emotional, or sexual violence by a partner, and nearly one in ten Rhode Island High School
3 students has already experienced physical dating violence; and

4 WHEREAS, National statistics show that most victims first experience dating violence
5 between the ages of 11 through 24; and

6 WHEREAS, Teens who are victims of dating violence are at higher risk for underage
7 drinking, drug abuse, attempted suicide, eating disorders, and bullying; and

8 WHEREAS, Adolescents who have experienced or are in controlling or violent
9 relationships may carry these dangerous and unhealthy patterns into their future relationships; and

10 WHEREAS, There are currently teens in every Rhode Island community who have or
11 will experience dating violence, but they are often afraid to discuss or report it, or may not even
12 recognize that they are in an abusive relationship; and

13 WHEREAS, Parents and other adults can also be uncomfortable acknowledging or may
14 be unaware that a young person is or has experienced abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, Rhode Island teens who are victims of dating violence, as well as parents,
16 teachers, and others, can learn more about the problem, including warning signs, types of abuse,
17 and available resources to help young people; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition, adults can model respectful behavior and open communication,
19 and can promote healthy relationships; and

1 WHEREAS, It is fitting that this House recognizes and promotes programs and
2 organizations that strive to protect and educate our state's youth; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims the month of February, 2017, as " Teen Dating Violence
5 & Prevention Month." We furthermore join the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence in
6 urging all Rhode Islanders to support efforts in their communities, schools, and within their
7 families to empower young people to prevent and respond to teen dating violence; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of state be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Deborah DeBare, Executive Director, RI
11 Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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