

2024 -- H 8021

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LC004874
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2024, AS "BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Batista,
Perez, Shallcross Smith, Diaz, Cortvriend, Carson, and Spears

Date Introduced: March 05, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In March of 2016, the United States Department of Health and Human
2 Services approved the inclusion of Bleeding Disorders Month on its National Observances
3 Calendar. Subsequently, March of each year is now nationally recognized as "Bleeding Disorders
4 Awareness Month" in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The designation formalized and expanded upon the original recognition of
6 March, 1986, as "Hemophilia Awareness Month" by President Ronald Reagan; and

7 WHEREAS, These bleeding disorders, which share a common factor in the body's
8 inability to form a proper blood clot, are characterized by extended bleeding and can lead to
9 significant morbidity and fatality if not treated effectively; and

10 WHEREAS, Many individuals with hemophilia became infected with HIV and Hepatitis
11 C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products; and

12 WHEREAS, Awareness during this month will generate greater understanding not only
13 for hemophilia but for all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand Disease,
14 which alone impacts an estimated 3.2 million Americans; with an estimated 24,000 individuals
15 suffering from hemophilia; and

16 WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month will also foster a greater sense of
17 community and shared purpose among individuals with all inheritable bleeding disorders and will
18 elevate awareness of and engagement in the inheritable bleeding disorders journey beyond our
19 community to the general public, enabling the prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures, and

1 disability; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
3 proclaims March of 2024, as "Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode
4 Island; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Richard Pezzillo, Executive Director, New
7 England Hemophilia Association.

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