

2024 -- H 8035

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2024, TO BE "BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH" IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Kazarian, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Carson,
Donovan, Spears, Cotter, Azzinaro, and Stewart

Date Introduced: March 07, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island has identified that thousands
2 of residents of Rhode Island will sustain a traumatic brain injury this year; and

3 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of America has identified brain injury as the
4 leading cause of death and disability among children and young adults in this country; and

5 WHEREAS, Brain injury is an extremely costly public health issue in the State of Rhode
6 Island; and

7 WHEREAS, Advances in medical technology have enabled many persons with severe
8 brain injury to survive these injuries; and

9 WHEREAS, Persons with brain injury may need specialized rehabilitation programs and
10 other services to meet specific needs to live life to maximum potential; and

11 WHEREAS, Most forms of insurance, public and private, that are available to persons
12 with brain injuries may not cover the rehabilitative and long-term care needs of these individuals;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, People with brain injury and their families too often must choose financial
15 hardship or discontinuing critical treatment and services due to the substantial long-term costs;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Without specialized community services, people with brain injury may
18 become inappropriately institutionalized; and

19 WHEREAS, Providing treatment methods and services to people with brain injury must

1 be a priority for the State of Rhode Island; and

2 WHEREAS, Thousands of Rhode Islanders are affected by diseases of the brain, and
3 brain injuries both acquired and traumatic including concussion, brain cancer, epilepsy, and other
4 neurological disorders; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
6 proclaims March of 2024, to be "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island.
7 We furthermore encourage all Rhode Islanders to observe Brain Injury Awareness Month and
8 participate in the month-long planned activities highlighting the wonders of the brain; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this Resolution to Debra Sharpe, Executive Director of the Brain
12 Injury Association of Rhode Island.

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