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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 16, 2019, TO THE "HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Michael J. McCaffrey

Date Introduced: March 21, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day, observed on April 16, 2019, is a national
2 initiative to inspire, educate and empower the public about the importance of advance care
3 planning. It is a collaborative effort of national, state, and community organizations intended to
4 encourage adults of all ages to plan ahead of a health crisis; and

5 WHEREAS, The Improving Care Coalition, a project of the Rhode Island State Nurses
6 Association, is the Rhode Island state liaison for National Healthcare Decisions Day at the
7 Institute for Healthcare Improvement's The Conversation Project, Cambridge, MA; and

8 WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day will help Rhode Islanders understand that making
9 future healthcare decisions includes much more than deciding what care they would or would not
10 want; it starts with expressing preferences, clarifying values, identifying care preferences and
11 selecting an agent to express healthcare decisions if patients are unable to speak for themselves;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Making healthcare decisions ahead of time and putting one's wishes in
14 writing brings peace of mind to families. It helps to avoid the difficult situations that are so
15 common when a person becomes seriously ill and the family is left to guess what their loved one
16 would have wanted; and

17 WHEREAS, An advance directive document speaks for an individual's healthcare
18 decisions if they cannot speak for themselves. Everyone needs an advocate; and

19 WHEREAS, The goal of Healthcare Decision Day is to encourage Rhode Islanders to

1 start the conversation about advance directives with their family rather than delaying that
2 discussion; and

3 WHEREAS, Healthcare Decision Day educates and empowers the public and healthcare
4 providers to take part in important advance care planning and encourages patients to discuss the
5 topic with their health care providers; and

6 WHEREAS, Healthcare Decision Day is an event that provides the opportunity to
7 advocate for a good life that honors a person's healthcare wishes; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 hereby proclaims April 16, 2019, to be "Health Care Decision Day" in the State of Rhode Island.
10 We moreover urge and encourage all the citizens of the state to learn about advance care planning
11 for themselves and their loved ones; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Director Nicole Alexander-Scott, Rhode Island
14 Department of Health, and The Improving Care Coalition, a project of the Rhode Island State
15 Nurses Association.

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