

2023 -- H 6246

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING APRIL OF 2023, AS "CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS
MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Newberry, Boylan, Baginski, Noret, Caldwell, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: April 04, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Child Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed annually in April in
2 order to recognize and increase awareness about sexual violence against children and educate
3 communities on how to prevent it; and

4 WHEREAS, Child sexual abuse is a significant public health problem and is not solely
5 restricted to physical contact; such abuse could include noncontact abuse, such as exposure,
6 voyeurism, and child pornography; and

7 WHEREAS, The prevalence of child sexual abuse is difficult to fully determine because
8 it is often not reported, however, according to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Health
9 and Human Services, one out of seven children in the United States has experienced physical and
10 sexual abuse, with 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys becoming a victim of child sexual abuse; and

11 WHEREAS, Forty-four percent of rape victims are under the age of eighteen and fifty-
12 nine percent of all sexual assaults go unreported to the police; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the 2020 Child Maltreatment Report, approximately 2 million
14 children received sexual assault prevention services in 2020, and the most vulnerable to sexual
15 assault are between the ages of 7 and 13; and

16 WHEREAS, A child who is the victim of prolonged sexual abuse usually develops low
17 self-esteem, a feeling of worthlessness and an abnormal or distorted view of sex. The child may
18 become withdrawn and mistrustful of adults, and can become suicidal; and

19 WHEREAS, Children do not always fully comprehend nor are they developmentally

1 prepared or have the ability to give consent and must rely on adults to keep them safe and insure
2 that child molesters and abusers are held responsible for their actions; and

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
4 commemorates April of 2023 as "Child Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and calls upon all
5 Rhode Islanders to help prevent and eliminate child sexual assault and violence in our
6 communities through advocacy, training, education and prevention programs; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the State of Rhode Island Department of
9 Children, Youth & Families and the Children's Advocacy Center.

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