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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY OF 2025 TO BE “MYOSITIS AWARENESS
MONTH IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND”

Introduced By: Representatives Shanley, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Paplauskas, Kazarian, Batista, Phillips, O'Brien, and Dawson
Date Introduced: May 01, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Residents of the State of Rhode Island are among those affected by myositis
2 and other rare diseases, because nearly one in ten Americans are afflicted with a rare disease; and
3 WHEREAS, Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (collectively referred to as Myositis)
4 are rare, chronic, autoimmune muscle wasting diseases associated with morbidity, significant
5 disability, and impacts lungs and other organs; and
6 WHEREAS, More research is needed to identify the causes of and modes of treatment for
7 the myositis group of diseases, which includes anti-MDS5 autoantibody positive myositis;
8 antisynthetase syndrome; dermatomyositis; juvenile dermatomyositis; immune-mediated
9 necrotizing myopathy; inclusion body myositis; and polymyositis; and
10 WHEREAS, Myositis is difficult to diagnose, treatment is often delayed, and individuals
11 generally experience difficulty finding a health care provider with expertise in their condition;
12 and
13 WHEREAS, All who suffer with myositis experience reduced quality of life, especially
14 as no cure has been found and life expectancy is shortened, especially for those with inclusion
15 body myositis and, women and people of color with all forms of myositis experience particularly
16 pronounced health disparities; and
17 WHEREAS, The Myositis Association (TMA) is the leading international patient
18 advocacy organization serving the myositis community, focusing on patient services, education,
19 research, and public awareness, so as to achieve a world without myositis; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
2 proclaims the Month of May of 2025 to be “Myositis Awareness Month in the State of Rhode
3 Island”. We furthermore encourage all Rhode Islanders to come together to learn more about all
4 the forms of Myositis and its symptoms, and to support the families in our community who will
5 benefit from greater awareness of these rare diseases; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Paula Eichenbrenner, Executive Director
8 of the Myositis Association, and Ms. Courtney Smith.

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