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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2026, TO BE "LIMB LOSS AND LIMB DIFFERENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Handy,  
Kennedy, Tanzi, Ajello, Felix, and Fellela

Date Introduced: April 07, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Loss of limb refers to the absence of a limb due to injury, disease or  
2 surgery. Limb difference refers to physical variation in the size, shape, or function of a limb.  
3 Limb difference can be present from birth (congenital) or acquired later in life; and

4 WHEREAS, There are approximately 5.7 million individuals living with limb loss and  
5 limb difference in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 2.3 million individuals live with a form of limb loss, and more  
7 than 3.4 million were born with a form of limb difference; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, 185,000 to 500,000 individuals in the United States experience  
9 limb loss or are born with limb difference; and

10 WHEREAS, Diabetes, peripheral vascular disease, and blood clots are cited as the  
11 leading causes of limb loss, accounting for fifty-four percent of amputations; and

12 WHEREAS, Traumatic accidents or injuries such as motor vehicle collisions, workplace  
13 incidents, sporting injuries, and military wounds, are other significant causes of limb loss,  
14 affecting forty-five percent of amputees; and

15 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that behaviors such as effective diabetes management,  
16 properly treating wounds, and observing safety practices can be effective in preventing  
17 amputations; and

18 WHEREAS, Access to appropriate prosthetic care for people living with limb loss or  
19 limb difference is vital to enable individuals to reach their full potential, remain physically active,

1 live independently, and thrive; and

2 WHEREAS, The Amputee Coalition provides education, support and advocacy through  
3 the National Limb Loss Resource Center for the benefit of persons who have limb loss and limb  
4 difference, their families, and health care providers throughout the United States; now, therefore  
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
7 proclaims April of 2026, to be “Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month” in the State  
8 of Rhode Island; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this House hereby encourages all Rhode Islanders to join in  
10 recognizing the importance of this month by supporting people living with limb loss and limb  
11 difference, learning about issues affecting people with limb loss or limb difference, expressing  
12 gratitude to family and caregivers who are a source of support and motivation, and by saluting  
13 our veterans who have lost their limbs in service to our Nation or thereafter; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the National Limb Loss Resource Center and  
16 The Amputee Coalition.

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