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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY OF 2026 AS "MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Chippendale, Kennedy,  
Diaz, Ajello, Santucci, Shallcross Smith, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: May 26, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being;  
2 it affects how we think, feel, and act; it also affects how we handle stress, relate to others, and  
3 make choices; and

4 WHEREAS, Mental health allows us to maintain relationships, take care of ourselves and  
5 our families, take care of our physical bodies, and respond and adapt to daily life changes; and

6 WHEREAS, Nearly 20 percent of children and young people ages 3-17 in the United  
7 States have a mental, emotional, developmental or behavioral disorder; and

8 WHEREAS, According to Mental Health America (MHA), approximately 20 percent of  
9 teenagers reported having at least one major depressive episode in the last year; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2024, The United States suicide rate reached a record high, rising to 14.7  
11 deaths per 100,000 individuals, a 30 percent increase over the past two decades; and

12 WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death amongst people aged 10 – 34  
13 and the 11th leading cause of death in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, A lack of mental health awareness leads to devastating impacts on the well-  
15 being of individuals and society; and

16 WHEREAS, Evidence-based mental and behavioral health training teaches adults how to  
17 recognize signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges in youth and adults,  
18 and provides skills to use a 5-step action plan to help someone who may be facing a mental health  
19 challenge or crisis, such as suicide; and

1           WHEREAS, Teen Mental Health First Aid trainings are proven to reduce stigma and  
2 teach teens how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use  
3 challenges among their friends and peers; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
5 recognizes May of 2026 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island. We  
6 moreover call upon citizens, organizations, health care providers, municipalities and schools to  
7 raise mental health awareness, provide age-appropriate mental health education and training, and  
8 continue helping Rhode Island citizens live longer, healthier lives; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
11 Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals.

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