

2026 -- H 8629

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JULY 2026 AS "DISABILITY AWARENESS AND DISABILITY PRIDE
MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Chippendale, Paplauskas,
Slater, Casey, Edwards, Kennedy, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: June 11, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, July is nationally recognized as Disability Pride Month and Disability
2 Awareness Month, celebrating the contributions, achievements, history, and civil rights of people
3 with disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, July 26, 2026, marks the thirty-sixth anniversary of the signing of the
5 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), landmark civil rights legislation that prohibits
6 discrimination against individuals with disabilities and promotes equal access, opportunity, and
7 inclusion in all aspects of society; and

8 WHEREAS, The ADA represented a historic promise of accessibility, independence,
9 inclusion, and equal opportunity; however, barriers continue to exist in housing, transportation,
10 education, employment, healthcare, voting, technology, and public accommodations; and

11 WHEREAS, More than twenty-six percent of Rhode Islanders live with a disability,
12 making people with disabilities one of the largest and most diverse communities in our State and
13 nation; and

14 WHEREAS, People with disabilities contribute significantly to Rhode Island's economic,
15 civic, educational, cultural, and social life and enrich our communities through their leadership,
16 talents, resilience, and achievements; and

17 WHEREAS, Disability Pride recognizes that people with disabilities are a natural and
18 valuable part of human diversity, and Disability Awareness calls upon all of us to identify and
19 remove barriers that prevent full participation and equal opportunity; and

1 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island remains committed to advancing accessibility,
2 equity, independence, inclusion, and dignity for all residents, regardless of ability; now, therefore
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
5 proclaims the month of July 2026 as "Disability Awareness and Disability Pride Month" in the
6 State of Rhode Island; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That this House honors the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Americans with
8 Disabilities Act on July 26, 2026, and recommits itself to building a Rhode Island in which
9 accessibility is the standard, inclusion is the expectation, and every individual has the opportunity
10 to reach their full potential; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That all Rhode Islanders, businesses, schools, community organizations,
12 and government agencies are encouraged to recognize Disability Awareness and Disability Pride
13 Month by promoting accessibility, advancing inclusion, celebrating the contributions of
14 individuals with disabilities, and fostering a culture of respect and equal opportunity throughout
15 the State of Rhode Island and beyond; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Tina Guenette, the CEO, Founder, and
18 President of Real Access Motivates Progress (R.A.M.P.).

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