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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE WEEK OF MAY 6TH THROUGH MAY 12TH OF 2026, AS  
"NATIONAL NURSES WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Lauria, Felag, Tikoian, Appollonio, LaMountain, McKenney,  
Sosnowski, Rogers, Famiglietti, and Burke

Date Introduced: May 08, 2026

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, National Nurses Week is held on May 6th through May 12th in order to  
2 coincide with and celebrate Florence Nightingale's birthday on the 12th. She was a nurse who  
3 became famous for treating wounded soldiers during the Crimean War, and for her efforts in  
4 establishing nursing as a profession. She was affectionately known as "The Lady with the Lamp"  
5 because during the war, she made a lot of her ward rounds at night while carrying a lamp; and

6           WHEREAS, This week is a time to acknowledge, honor, and express our heartfelt  
7 gratitude to Rhode Island's brave, dedicated, and determined nurses who day after day and month  
8 after month care for us; and

9           WHEREAS, Registered nurses in the United States constitute this Nation's largest  
10 healthcare profession; and

11           WHEREAS, The depth and breadth of the registered nursing profession met and  
12 exceeded the different and emerging healthcare needs of the American population during the  
13 COVID-19 pandemic and in a wide range of settings; and

14           WHEREAS, The American Nurses Association, celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the  
15 voice for registered nurses across this country, is working to chart a new course for a healthy  
16 Nation that relies on increasing delivery of primary and preventive healthcare and requiring better  
17 utilization of all our Nation's registered nursing resources; and

18           WHEREAS, Professional nursing has demonstrated itself to be an indispensable  
19 component in providing safety and quality of care for hospitalized and non-hospitalized patients;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The demand for registered nursing services is greater than ever, due to the  
3 aging of the American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technologies, the  
4 explosive growth of home healthcare services, and the need to develop coordinated networking to  
5 prevent and contain new and emergent widespread infectious diseases; and

6 WHEREAS, More qualified registered nurses will be needed in the future to meet the  
7 increasingly complex needs of healthcare consumers in this country and across the world; and

8 WHEREAS, The cost-effective, safe, and high-quality healthcare services provided by  
9 registered nurses will be an increasingly important component of the United States healthcare  
10 delivery system in the future; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby joins the American  
12 Nurses Association in celebrating May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as “National Nurses Week”  
13 with its theme “The Power of Nurses” in appreciation of nurses’ unparalleled impact on our lives  
14 and their contributions to all aspects of health care, and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate moreover urges all the residents of the State to join in  
16 honoring and thanking the registered nurses who have selflessly cared for us all, and to celebrate  
17 their efforts and accomplishments in improving our healthcare system, not just during this week,  
18 but at every opportunity throughout the year; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the United  
21 Nurses & Allied Professionals, and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association.

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