

**2012 -- H 8136**

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LC02514  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012**

**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING MAY 9, 2012, TO BE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH DAY IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives O`Grady, Petrarca, Menard, MacBeth, and Tomasso

Date Introduced: May 09, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, States and communities across the country have set aside May 9<sup>th</sup> as a day to  
2 raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and to increase understanding  
3 about the mental health needs of children and their families; and

4           WHEREAS, All too often, young people are faced with serious challenges affecting their  
5 mental health and, oftentimes, these challenges can have a negative impact on their quality of life;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Twenty percent of our young people will experience teen depression before  
8 they reach adulthood and at any given time, ten to twenty percent of all teenagers are  
9 experiencing symptoms of depression; and

10           WHEREAS, Many teens will suffer more than one episode of depression, twenty to forty  
11 percent will have an episode within one year, and seventy percent will have more than one by the  
12 time they reach adulthood. These episodes can often last eight months; and

13           WHEREAS, Fifteen percent of depressed teens will develop bipolar disorder, which can  
14 potentially jeopardize their futures; and

15           WHEREAS, Only thirty-three percent of depressed teens will seek help when they  
16 believe they are depressed, although eighty percent of the actual cases could successfully be  
17 treated; and

18           WHEREAS, Drawing attention to these potentially serious mental health challenges is a  
19 fundamental necessity in the effort to help our young people lead more healthy and productive

1 lives; now, therefore be it

2           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
3 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims May 9<sup>th</sup> of 2012 to be “Children’s Mental Health Day”  
4 and urges all the citizens of the state to become cognizant and ever vigilant of the symptoms and  
5 treatment options for teen depression; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Emma Hebert.

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