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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE SAMARITANS, INC., OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Miller, P Fogarty, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 26, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Across our state and this country, the ramifications of suicide have a lasting  
2 impact on family, friends and the community; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, suicide is the leading  
4 cause of intentional injury death, with the Rhode Island Medical Examiner's office reporting  
5 1,469 deaths by suicide from 2000 to 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2014, RI E-911 responded to more than 1,539 suicide related rescue calls,  
7 and according to the RI Department of Health Data Brief, from 2007 to 2013, high school  
8 students actually attempting suicide increased from 9 percent to 14 percent and for middle  
9 schoolers, the percentage of students with an emotional disability increased from 8 percent to 10  
10 percent; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout history, our nation has been propitiously blessed with everyday  
12 folks who are willing to step forward and get involved, and it is fitting that this Senate recognizes  
13 their earnest efforts toward the betterment of this state and our citizenry; and

14 WHEREAS, The Samaritans, Inc., of Rhode Island is a statewide, independent, non-  
15 religious, philanthropic organization, incorporated in December 1977 with the noble mission "To  
16 have a suicide free Rhode Island"; and to be the "agency of choice" for individuals, families and  
17 other community stakeholders who seek information relating to suicide prevention, grief support,  
18 education and resources; and

19 WHEREAS, More than 1,500 adults of all ages as well as college, graduate, and medical  
20 students have become Samaritan volunteers, providing emotional support through the

1 internationally recognized model called befriending, and staffing the agency's Crisis  
2 Hotline/Listening Line, Safe Place Grief Support Group, Lifeline Prison Program at the Men's  
3 Intake Center of the ACI, and its Youth and Teen and Community Education Programs; and

4 WHEREAS, Also during the past 38 years, The Samaritans have received more than  
5 500,000 calls helping those in a crisis, recovering from a crisis, and those who have recovered as  
6 well as those in care, out of care, and most importantly helping those for whom care will never be  
7 an option; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2003, The Samaritans launched its first website, hosting more than 6,500  
9 visitors, and in 2014, the site hosted 66,481 visitors and had more than 1,018,572 hits; and

10 WHEREAS, The Samaritans of Rhode Island have been helping persons in crisis and  
11 those whose lives have been affected by suicide for almost four decades, and their altruistic  
12 endeavors are eminently worthy of our utmost admiration and gratitude ; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
14 hereby honors and applauds The Samaritans for caring and listening, and doing their part to save  
15 and brighten the lives of individuals in need; 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 the Board of Directors of The Samaritans, Inc.,  
18 of Rhode Island.

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