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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL, 2015, TO BE "SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH" IN  
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Paiva Weed, Sheehan, Conley, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: April 30, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault is a serious problem in the United States; a problem that  
2 indelibly changes lives; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey of  
4 2011, nearly 1 in 5 women in the United States have been raped at some time in their lives; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Campus Sexual Assault Study of 2007, sexual assault is a  
6 particular problem on college campuses, with 1 in 5 women reporting being sexually assaulted  
7 while in college; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Medical University of South Carolina, National Crime  
9 Victims Research & Treatment Center, reporting rates for campus sexual assault are very low;  
10 and college survivors suffer high rates of PTSD, depression, and drug or alcohol abuse, which can  
11 hamper their ability to succeed in school; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
13 (USCDCP), in a 2013 nationwide survey, 7.3 percent of high school students reported having  
14 been forced to have sex. More female than male students reported experiencing forced sex in  
15 their lifetimes; and

16 WHEREAS, During Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), we seek:

17 - To increase public awareness and call attention to the facts about sexual violence and  
18 prevention;

19 - To do something bold and different to significantly reduce the incidence of sexual

1 assault;

2 - To promote resources to support survivors; and

3 - To educate people and communities regarding harmful attitudes and actions that allow  
4 sexual assault to continue unabated; and

5 WHEREAS, Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment seriously harm individuals and  
6 our communities; and

7 WHEREAS, This year, the focus of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is preventing  
8 sexual assault on college campuses; and

9 WHEREAS, Citizens, government entities, organizations and all members of our society  
10 need to join together and join forces to actively prevent sexual violence; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
12 hereby proclaims the month of April, 2015, to be "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in our state.

13 We furthermore join Day One, a Rhode Island Sexual Assault and Trauma resource, to urge  
14 advocacy and action across the state to prevent sexual violence; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Peg Langhammer, Executive Director of Day  
17 One.

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