

2016 -- S 2919

=====
LC005811
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL, 2016, TO BE "HEALTH DISPARITY MONTH" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Metts, Felag, Miller, and Paiva Weed

Date Introduced: April 27, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Despite notable progress in the overall health of our state, there are
2 continuing health disparities in the burden of illness and death experienced by certain racial and
3 ethnic groups, as compared to the population of the state as a whole; and

4 WHEREAS, Health is greatly influenced by the social and physical environments in
5 which people live. These environments can create a disparity in the health statuses of groups of
6 people; and

7 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, the prevalence of being uninsured, having no doctor,
8 experiencing cost barriers to seeing a doctor, and having had no checkup in the past 12 months
9 are highest among Hispanic adults compared with all other racial/ethnic groups; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition, the infant mortality rate for African-American Rhode Islanders
11 is almost double the state average (11.2 vs. 6.6 per 1,000 live births), and the diabetes rate for
12 Hispanic adults is 11.3 percent, compared to 7.2 percent for white adults; and

13 WHEREAS, Nationwide, minorities are more likely to die from cancer, cardiovascular
14 disease, stroke, chemical dependency, diabetes, infant mortality, violence, and, in recent years,
15 acquired immunodeficiency syndrome than non-minorities suffering from those same illnesses;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Health equity means everyone has an equal opportunity to take advantage of
18 resources that will help them live a long, healthy life; and

19 WHEREAS, Working toward health equity means reducing differences in health

1 outcomes between different groups in a population. Determinants to health equity include health
2 care utilization and access, patient attitudes toward health services, levels of unemployment,
3 language barriers, the availability of public transportation in a community, and the availability of
4 healthy food; and

5 WHEREAS, Achieving health equity requires creating equal opportunities for health by
6 eliminating health disparities, encouraging more minorities in the health care workforce, assuring
7 healthy childhood development, preventing and controlling disease and disability, and working to
8 make the environment healthy; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
10 hereby proclaims April, 2016, to be "Health Disparity Month" in the state; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes the need to reduce health disparities in
12 our state and encourages all health organizations and Rhode Islanders to conduct appropriate
13 programs and activities to promote healthfulness in minority and other communities experiencing
14 health disparities; 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 Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director
17 Designee of the Department of Health.

=====
LC005811
=====