

2017 -- H 5812

LC000455

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2017, AS "BLEEDING DISORDERS
AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Maldonado, Kazarian, Casimiro, and
Shanley

Date Introduced: March 01, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In March of 2016, The United States Department of Health and Human
2 Services approved the inclusion of Bleeding Disorders Month on its National Observances
3 Calendar. Subsequently, March of each year is now officially recognized nationally as "Bleeding
4 Disorders Awareness Month" in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, This designation formalized and expanded upon the designation 31 years
6 ago of March, 1986, as "Hemophilia Awareness Month" by President Ronald Reagan; and

7 WHEREAS, These bleeding disorders, which share the inability to form a proper blood
8 clot, are characterized by extended bleeding and can lead to significant morbidity and can be fatal
9 if not treated effectively; and

10 WHEREAS, Many individuals with hemophilia became infected with HIV and Hepatitis
11 C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products; and

12 WHEREAS, This Awareness Month will generate greater awareness and understanding
13 of not only hemophilia but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand Disease,
14 which alone impacts an estimated one percent of the United States population or more than 3.2
15 million individuals; with an estimated 10,000 individuals suffering from these disorders in Rhode
16 Island; and

17 WHEREAS, This Awareness Month will foster a greater sense of community and shared
18 purpose among individuals with all inheritable bleeding disorders; and

19 WHEREAS, This Awareness Month will elevate awareness of and engagement in the

1 inheritable bleeding disorders journey beyond our community to the general public, enabling the
2 prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures, and disability; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims March, 2017, as "Bleeding Disorders Awareness
5 Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Richard Pezzillo, Executive Director, New
8 England Hemophilia Association.

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