

2017 -- S 0694

LC002363

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2017, AS "NATIONAL DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Ruggiero, Metts, Satchell, and Miller

Date Introduced: March 30, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, The month of March, 2017, marks the 30th Anniversary of National  
2 Disabilities Awareness Month (NDAM). National Disabilities Awareness Month is a special time  
3 when we recognize the contributions of people with disabilities in their communities as well as  
4 those programs and support systems that make such contributions not only possible, but also a  
5 seamlessly integral part of society; and

6           WHEREAS, Proclaimed by President Reagan in 1987, the occasion of National  
7 Disabilities Awareness month's inception was a banner year not only for the nation, but also for  
8 the State of Rhode Island; and

9           WHEREAS, Decades ago, the late United States Representative John Fogarty inspired  
10 citizens to come together to change attitudes that would provide the impetus to support significant  
11 legislative action in order to achieve his vision of improving the health and well-being of those  
12 with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

13           WHEREAS, Congressman Fogarty was fond of saying, "I have seen that clear, united  
14 citizen action surrounding any problem impresses the councils of the capital city. In our  
15 democratic way of life, there is no force greater than the concerted and collective voice of our  
16 citizens"; and

17           WHEREAS, Today, more than a quarter century after Congressman Fogarty uttered those  
18 famous words, a new generation of support systems has come to fruition, providing opportunities  
19 such as shared living arrangements, transitional school services, community-based day services,

1 and programs to provide career planning, job coaching, and supported employment for people  
2 with developmental and intellectual disabilities; and

3 WHEREAS, As the living embodiment of this vision, the Rhode Island Senate hosted the  
4 John E. Fogarty Foundation for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities forum focusing upon the  
5 current issues facing people with developmental disabilities living in Rhode Island; and

6 WHEREAS, The Fogarty Center's philosophy is that people with developmental  
7 disabilities be active, productive members of the community and, as such, are entitled to the same  
8 rights, privileges, responsibilities and choices as all citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, Accordingly, the mission of the Fogarty Center is to offer exploration,  
10 encouragement and positive guidance concerning individual interests, aptitude and talents, based  
11 on personal preferences. Ultimately, Fogarty Center clients achieve self-determination and  
12 personal growth; and

13 WHEREAS, The many members of the developmentally disabled community in  
14 attendance at the forum attests to the fact that through their determination and the assistance of  
15 dedicated direct support professionals, Congressman Fogarty's vision can be achieved; now,  
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
18 hereby wishes to recognize and celebrate "National Disabilities Awareness Month" in the State of  
19 Rhode Island. In doing so, we recognize the remarkable achievements, efforts and advances made  
20 by these men and women each and every day; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mary Fogarty McAndrew, Chairperson of the  
23 Fogarty Foundation.

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