

2021 -- H 6195

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 5TH THOUGH APRIL 11TH OF 2021, AS  
"NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Cassar, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kislak, Filippi, Fellela,  
Donovan, and Ajello

Date Introduced: April 06, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The week of April 5th through April 11th of 2021, is National Public Health  
2 Week, and the theme is "Building Bridges to Better Health"; and

3           WHEREAS, Since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its  
4 sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public  
5 health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and

6           WHEREAS, Life expectancy in the United States dropped from 2014 to 2017, in the  
7 longest sustained decline since the Great Depression and only in 2018, did life expectancy begin  
8 to increase again. Further studies consistently show that the United States has a lower life  
9 expectancy than comparable countries; and

10           WHEREAS, There is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor  
11 mental health, and drug use, among people living in rural areas compared with people living in  
12 urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social  
13 determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of  
14 economic opportunity; and

15           WHEREAS, Public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for,  
16 withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease  
17 outbreaks such as the Covid-19 pandemic, measles, surveillance and control systems; and

18           WHEREAS, Public health action, together with scientific and technological advances,  
19 has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious

1 disease, and in establishing today's disease surveillance and control systems; and

2 WHEREAS, Six in ten United States adults have a chronic disease and four in ten have  
3 two or more, and health issues such as alcoholism, obesity and tobacco use are the primary reason  
4 for seven of every ten deaths annually in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The Covid-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequalities  
6 and a growing number of local governments, state governments, and public health leaders have  
7 declared racism a public health crisis; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
9 commemorates the week of April 5th through April 11th of 2021, as "National Health Week" and  
10 calls upon the people of Rhode Island to use the observation of this week to help our families,  
11 friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and  
12 support great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's theme,  
13 "Building Bridges to Better Health"; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Director Nicole-Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH,  
16 Rhode Island Department of Health.

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