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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2021, TO BE "SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH" IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Tiara T. Mack

Date Introduced: April 13, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault is a despicable crime that affects victims, families, and our
2 entire society. Tragically, crimes that are sexually violent in nature continue to rank among the
3 most prevalent in our society and create some of the most widespread public health problems in
4 our communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Sexual assault affects every child and adult in Rhode Island as a
6 victim/survivor, or as a family member, significant other, neighbor, friend, or co-worker of a
7 victim/survivor; and

8 WHEREAS, In the United States, nearly one in five women and one in 67 men have been
9 raped at some time in their lives. Additionally, one in six boys and one in four girls is sexually
10 abused before the age of eighteen; and

11 WHEREAS, The year 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness
12 Month and the theme of this year's campaign is "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces." The
13 campaign asks all of us to create online spaces that are built on the foundational values of
14 practicing consent, keeping kids safe, and supporting survivors of sexual abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, We all must work together to educate our communities about what can be
16 done to prevent sexual assault, and how we can better support survivors with increased access to
17 medical care, counseling and support groups; and

18 WHEREAS, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling
19 evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Rhode Island through

1 prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of sexual
2 violence responsible for their actions; and

3 WHEREAS, It is essential to endeavor to hold forth a vision of a community free from all
4 forms of violence, including sexual violence; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims April, 2021,
6 to be "Sexual Assault Awareness Month"; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Caitlin Green of the National Sexual
9 Violence Resource Center.

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