

2022 -- H 8019

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING DR. ASHISH JHA ON BEING NAMED COVID-19 COORDINATOR
BY PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND THANKING HIM FOR PROVIDING HIS ERUDITION,
LEADERSHIP, AND CALMING REASSURANCES TO ALL RHODE ISLANDERS DURING
THE PANDEMIC

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Hull, Filippi, Fogarty,
Williams, J Lombardi, Kennedy, Ajello, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: March 22, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Ashish Jha, a globally recognized expert on pandemic preparedness and
2 response as well as on health policy research and practice, and the Dean of the Brown University
3 School of Public Health, has been named COVID-19 coordinator by President Joe Biden, and is
4 tasked with implementing the National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and managing the ongoing
5 risks from COVID; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Ashish Jha was born in Pursaulia, Bihar, India. He moved to Canada
7 and in 1983, relocated to the United States. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Columbia
8 University, received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and trained as a resident in Internal
9 Medicine at the University of California. After returning to Boston, he completed his fellowship
10 in General Medicine from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and
11 ultimately completed his Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of
12 Public Health; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2013, Dr. Jha was elected as a member of the National Academy of
14 Medicine, and was later named K.T. Li Professor of Global Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan
15 School of Public Health and Director of the Harvard Global Health Institute (HGHI). In February
16 of 2020, just days before the pandemic was declared, he was named Dean of Brown University's
17 School of Public Health and has helped guide the University through the pandemic and Rhode
18 Island's vaccine rollout; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Jha is globally recognized as an expert on the pandemic in terms of
2 preparedness and response, as well as health policy research and practice, and although almost 80
3 percent of adults in the United States are fully vaccinated and over 100 million are boosted, the
4 pandemic is not over and there is still much more work to be done; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the course of President Biden's term, Dr. Jha has had national
6 exposure, participating in a number of Congressional hearings on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout
7 and the global impact of the pandemic. In addition, he has advised the White House on the
8 national COVID-19 preparedness plan, and there is no doubt that he is eminently worthy of his
9 newly appointed title and our gratitude; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 congratulates Dr. Ashish Jha on being named COVID-19 Coordinator for the Nation by President
12 Joe Biden and thanks him for providing his erudition, leadership, and calming reassurances to all
13 Rhode Islanders during the pandemic; 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 Dr. Ashish Jha.

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