

2022 -- H 8105

LC005606

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 4-10 OF 2022 TO BE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Cassar, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kislak, McNamara,
Serpa, Knight, Cortvriend, Tanzi, and Speakman

Date Introduced: April 06, 2022

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, The week of April 4-10, 2022, is National Public Health Week, and the
2 theme is "Public Health is Where You Are"; 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, United States life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest
7 sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018, began to increase again. United
8 States life expectancy then dropped again in 2020 by a full year, which is the largest drop in life
9 expectancy since 1943; 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, A person's health status can differ drastically by zip code due to differences
16 in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food,
17 access to education, and access to health care; and

18 WHEREAS, Public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for,
19 withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease

1 outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters, and disasters caused by
2 human activity; and

3 WHEREAS, Public health action, together with scientific and technological advances,
4 has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious
5 disease, and in establishing today's disease surveillance and control systems; and

6 WHEREAS, Preventable risk factors such as such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition,
7 tobacco use and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease; and 6 in 10 United
8 States adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more; and chronic diseases cause 7
9 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities
11 and a growing number of local and state governments, and public health leaders have declared
12 racism a public health crisis; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 commemorates April 4th through April 10th of 2022, as "National Health Week" and calls upon
15 the people of Rhode Island to use the observation of this week to help our families, friends,
16 neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and support
17 great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's theme, "Public Health
18 Is Where You Are"; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Acting Director James McDonald, MD,
21 MPH, Rhode Island Department of Health.

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