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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**URGING THE RHODE ISLAND FEDERAL DELEGATION TO DEMAND REVERSAL OF
ACTIONS HARMING CRITICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS**

Introduced By: Representatives Cortvriend, Donovan, Fogarty, McGaw, Kislak,
Speakman, Handy, and Morales

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, The United States, under the administration of President Donald Trump, has
2 enacted several sweeping actions that directly undermine the health and wellbeing of the
3 American people, as well as those globally who depend on U.S. assistance and leadership,
4 including the withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Paris Climate
5 Agreement; halting critical U.S. foreign aid through USAID, including cutting key health
6 programs; and freezing over \$3 trillion worth of federal grants and loans that jeopardize the
7 functioning of Medicaid; and

8 WHEREAS, These actions have caused a severe disruption in the United States' ability to
9 respond to global health crises, halted vital biomedical research at the National Institutes of
10 Health (NIH), imposed stop-work orders at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
11 (CDC), and harmed the health of millions of people by delaying and ending essential disease
12 prevention and healthcare programs; and

13 WHEREAS, The reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy has led to significant setbacks
14 in women's health programs, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights, which
15 disproportionately affect vulnerable communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The freezing of U.S. foreign aid has resulted in the dismantling of crucial
17 programs such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), leaving millions in
18 need of HIV prevention and treatment services without access to care; and

19 WHEREAS, The impact of these actions has already been felt across the globe and in the

1 U.S., with health clinics closing, vital research stalling, and health workers being fired, leaving
2 countless individuals without access to life-saving care, with particular negative effects on the
3 most vulnerable populations, including women and key populations affected by HIV; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the most troubling actions has been the communication blackouts
5 imposed by the administration, most notably the cessation of the publication of the Morbidity and
6 Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) by the CDC, for the first time in over 60 years. This critical
7 journal has long been a vital source of information on disease surveillance, public health updates,
8 and scientific data that the U.S. and the world rely on to inform health decisions and policy, and
9 its absence severely undermines transparency and the nation's ability to respond to ongoing and
10 emerging health threats; and

11 WHEREAS, President Trump's actions are not a measured reappraisal of U.S. priorities
12 but rather a dangerous and damaging assault on public health, scientific inquiry, and human rights
13 that must be reversed for the health of Americans and the broader global community; and

14 WHEREAS, The health, medical, and scientific communities have been essential in
15 advocating for their patients and defending critical programs, and the global health community
16 must work in solidarity to ensure that the U.S. once again becomes a reliable partner in global
17 health; and

18 WHEREAS, Bipartisanship has traditionally supported global health initiatives and the
19 protection of vulnerable populations worldwide, but the actions taken by President Trump have
20 created deep polarization, undermining trust in the U.S. as a leader in global health and
21 development; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
23 urges Rhode Island's federal delegation, Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, and
24 Congressmen Seth Magaziner and Gabe Amo, to take immediate action to reverse these policies
25 and restore the U.S.'s role as a leader in promoting health, human rights, and global cooperation,
26 and to demand that President Trump reverse his harmful policies, including:

27 • Rejoining the World Health Organization (WHO) and recommitting to international
28 collaboration in the fight against global health crises;

29 • Re-entering the Paris Climate Agreement and reasserting the U.S.'s commitment to
30 addressing climate change as a public health issue;

31 • Restoring U.S. foreign aid funding, including the critical programs under USAID,
32 particularly for HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health services;

33 • Unfreezing federal grants and loans essential for Medicaid and other public health
34 programs to function effectively and continue serving the most vulnerable;

1 • Restoring the mission and funding of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including removing stop-work orders and re-
3 enabling their critical work on disease prevention, medical research, and public health initiatives;

4 • Repealing the Mexico City Policy, ensuring that women’s reproductive rights are
5 protected globally;

6 • Reversing the communications blackout, especially the cessation of the publication of the
7 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), and restoring transparency in public health
8 reporting;

9 • Reversing restrictions on scientific research and publication, including the removal of
10 censorship on terms related to gender identity and sexual orientation, and promoting open,
11 evidence-based discourse in medical and scientific communities; and

12 • Restoring trust in U.S. leadership in global health, ensuring that future actions reflect the
13 values of cooperation, equity, and solidarity that have long been central to American ideals; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That this House hereby calls on the U.S. Congress to protect the health and
16 safety of Americans and those dependent on U.S. assistance, and to work together across political
17 lines to ensure that health, science, and human rights are defended in both the domestic and
18 international arenas; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the offices of the Honorable Senator Jack Reed
21 and the Honorable Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and the Honorable Representative Seth
22 Magaziner and the Honorable Representative Gabe Amo.

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