

2025 -- H 6199

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING APRIL OF 2025, AS "CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS
MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Roberts, Nardone, Chippendale, Santucci, Hopkins,
Paplauskas, Fascia, Place, Newberry, and J. Brien

Date Introduced: April 08, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Child Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed annually in April in
2 order to recognize and increase awareness about sexual violence against children and educate
3 communities on how to prevent it; and

4 WHEREAS, Child sexual abuse is a significant public health problem and is not solely
5 restricted to physical contact; such abuse could include noncontact abuse, such as exposure,
6 voyeurism, and child pornography; and

7 WHEREAS, The prevalence of child sexual abuse is difficult to fully determine because
8 it is often not reported; however, according to the most recent National Statistics from Child
9 Abuse Organizations, one out of ten children in the United States has experienced physical and
10 sexual abuse. One in four girls and one in thirteen boys become a victim of child sexual abuse
11 before they turn eighteen years old according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Forty-four percent of rape victims are under the age of eighteen and sixty-
14 three percent of all sexual assaults go unreported to the police; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the 2023 National Statistics on Child Abuse, U.S. child
16 welfare authorities look into the safety of more than 7.5 million children annually and of those,
17 around 3 million children received an investigation or alternative response from child protective
18 services agencies; and

19 WHEREAS, A child who is the victim of prolonged sexual abuse usually develops low

1 self-esteem, a feeling of worthlessness and an abnormal or distorted view of sex. The child may
2 become withdrawn and mistrustful of adults, and can become suicidal; and

3 WHEREAS, Children do not always fully comprehend nor are they developmentally
4 prepared or have the ability to give consent, and need to rely on adults to keep them safe and
5 ensure that child molesters and abusers are held responsible for their actions; now therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
7 commemorates April of 2025 as "Child Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and calls upon all
8 Rhode Islanders to help prevent and eliminate child sexual assault and violence in our
9 communities through advocacy, training, education and prevention programs; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the State of Rhode Island Department of
12 Children, Youth & Families and the Children's Advocacy Center.

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