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LC002484  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY OF 2025 AS "MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Cruz,  
Ajello, Boylan, Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend, and Potter  
Date Introduced: May 06, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

- 1 WHEREAS, Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being;
- 2 it affects how we think, feel, and act; it also affects how we handle stress, relate to others, and
- 3 make choices; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mental health allows us to maintain relationships, take care of ourselves and
- 5 our families, take care of our physical bodies, and respond and adapt to daily life changes; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Nearly 20 percent of children and young people ages 3-17 in the United
- 7 States have a mental, emotional, developmental or behavioral disorder; and
- 8 WHEREAS, According to Mental Health America (MHA), approximately 20 percent of
- 9 teenagers reported having at least one major depressive episode in 2024; and
- 10 WHEREAS, In 2024, The United States suicide rate reached a record high, rising to 14.7
- 11 deaths per 100,000 individuals, a 30 percent increase over the past two decades; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death amongst people aged 10 – 34
- 13 and the 11th leading cause of death in the United States; and
- 14 WHEREAS, A lack of mental health awareness leads to devastating impacts on the well-
- 15 being of individuals and society; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Evidence-based mental and behavioral health training teaches adults how to
- 17 recognize signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges in youth and adults,
- 18 and provides skills to use a 5-step action plan to help someone who may be facing a mental health
- 19 challenge or crisis, such as suicide; and

1           WHEREAS, Teen Mental Health First Aid trainings are proven to reduce stigma and  
2    teach teens how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use  
3    challenges among their friends and peers; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
5    recognizes "Mental Health Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island. We moreover call  
6    upon citizens, counties, organizations, health care providers, and schools to raise mental health  
7    awareness, provide age-appropriate mental health education and training, and continue helping  
8    Rhode Island citizens live longer, healthier lives; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10   transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
11   Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals.

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