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LC002852  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY TO BE "ASTHMA AND ALLERGY AWARENESS  
MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,  
Bennett, Ackerman, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, and Fellela  
Date Introduced: May 15, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

- 1 WHEREAS, Approximately 4.9 million children in the United States currently have
- 2 asthma; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Nearly 28 million people in the United States, have asthma and the numbers
- 4 are increasing each year; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Nearly 125,000 adults and children in Rhode Island have asthma; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Providence ranks 10th in the nation as the most challenging city to live in
- 7 with asthma by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Asthma is one of the most common noncommunicable diseases among
- 9 children; and
- 10 WHEREAS, 1.5 million individuals per year visit emergency departments because of
- 11 asthma's effects; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Asthma is a leading cause of hospitalizations and school absences due to a
- 13 chronic disease among children; and
- 14 WHEREAS, The total economic cost of asthma in the United States was \$81,900,000,000
- 15 per year from 2008 to 2013; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous individuals in the United States face the
- 17 highest burden of asthma; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Asthma is a manageable disease that claimed the lives of over 3,500 people
- 19 in the United States in 2021; and

1           WHEREAS, People with asthma and food allergies need access to affordable health  
2 insurance and to the medications and devices they need at affordable prices; and

3           WHEREAS, 20,300,000 people in the United States have food allergies, including  
4 approximately 4,300,000 children;

5           WHEREAS, Food allergies have increased among U.S. children over the past 20 years,  
6 with the greatest increase in Black children; and

7           WHEREAS, Children with food allergies are two to four times more likely to have  
8 asthma or other allergic diseases; now, therefore be it

9           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
10 proclaims the Month of May to be "Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode  
11 Island. This House also urges the people of the State of Rhode Island to observe this month with  
12 appropriate ceremonies and activities; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Kenneth Mendez, President and CEO of the  
15 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA).

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