

2026 -- H 8303

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2026, TO BE "BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH" IN  
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Furtado, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian,  
Chippendale, Read, Tanzi, Fogarty, Ackerman, and Alzate

Date Introduced: March 17, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island has identified that more than  
2 12,000 residents of Rhode Island will sustain a traumatic brain injury this year; and

3 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of America has identified brain injury as the  
4 leading cause of death and disability among children and young adults in this country; and

5 WHEREAS, Brain injury is an extremely costly public health issue in the State of Rhode  
6 Island; and

7 WHEREAS, Advances in medical technology have enabled many persons with severe  
8 brain injury to survive these injuries; and

9 WHEREAS, Persons with brain injury may need specialized rehabilitation programs and  
10 other services to meet specific needs to live life to maximum potential; and

11 WHEREAS, Most forms of insurance, public and private, that are available to persons  
12 with brain injuries may not cover the rehabilitative and long-term care needs of these individuals;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, People with brain injury and their families too often must choose financial  
15 hardship and discontinuing critical treatment and services due to the substantial long-term costs;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Without specialized community services, people with brain injury may  
18 become inappropriately institutionalized; and

19 WHEREAS, Providing treatment methods and services to people with brain injury must

1 be a priority for the State of Rhode Island; and

2 WHEREAS, Thousands of Rhode Islanders are affected by diseases of the brain, and  
3 brain injuries both acquired and traumatic including concussion, brain cancer, epilepsy, and other  
4 neurological disorders; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
6 proclaims March of 2026 to be "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in Rhode Island. We  
7 furthermore encourage all Rhode Islanders to participate in the month-long planned activities  
8 highlighting the wonders of the brain, and the observation of Brain Injury Awareness Month; and  
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this Resolution to Neil Sharpe, Executive Director of the Brain  
12 Injury Association of Rhode Island.

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