

2024 -- H 8234

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "NATIONAL OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA AWARENESS WEEK"
ON MAY 4 - 11, 2024

Introduced By: Representatives Kazarian, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Casimiro, Alzate, Stewart, Boylan, Kennedy, and Fellela

Date Introduced: May 02, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, National OI Awareness Week is a time to raise awareness for Osteogenesis
2 Imperfecta and a time for those living with OI to share their "Unbreakable Spirit." The week is
3 centered around "Wishbone Day" on May 6, which is the International OI Awareness Day; and

4 WHEREAS, Osteogenesis Imperfecta is a rare and complex genetic disorder that anyone
5 can be born with; however, people with a family history of the disease are at greater risk of
6 inheriting the disease through an abnormal gene that is passed on from one or both parents; and

7 WHEREAS, OI is caused by a change in one's collagen which is the major protein
8 present in bone, and which causes the bones to break easily. This mutation affects bone
9 composition, formation, and strength, as well as the structure of other tissues; and

10 WHEREAS, While brittle bones are the major feature of OI, many other body systems
11 may be affected including dental issues, hearing loss, muscle weakness, cardiac and respiratory
12 issues; and

13 WHEREAS, Infants who have recognizable OI at birth make up about 1 in every 16,000
14 to 20,000 births. The incidence rate is similar in people with milder forms of OI that become
15 apparent later in life; and

16 WHEREAS, OI affects all genders, races and ethnic groups equally and a person who is
17 born with OI is affected throughout his or her lifetime; and

18 WHEREAS, In the United States, an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 people have the
19 condition; and

1 WHEREAS, There is no cure for OI. Treatment focuses on minimizing fractures, the
2 surgical correction of deformity, reducing bone fragility, and maximizing mobility and
3 independent function; and

4 WHEREAS, The purpose of OI Awareness Day is to improve the quality of life for those
5 living with OI through research, and by fostering support, raising awareness, and providing vital
6 information to our communities, medical professionals and caregivers; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
8 commemorates "National Osteogenesis Imperfecta Awareness Week" on May 4 – 11, 2024, and
9 urges all Rhode Islanders to join together to bring awareness and focus attention on this rare
10 disorder; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the RI Department of Health, Susan Kortick,
13 RN, Group Coordinator for the OI RI Support Group, and Chris Partington.

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