WHEREAS, There exists a continuing debate in this nation and state as to abortion and
ascertaining the moment that human life begins; and
WHEREAS, Upon fertilization, an egg becomes a zygote. Shortly thereafter, the zygote
splits into two cells, and is called a two-celled embryo. When it splits into four cells, it is called a
four-celled embryo, etc.; and
WHEREAS, If an embryo is then nourished and protected, it will proceed, uninterrupted,
through the developmental stages from embryo to fetus; and
WHEREAS, There is sound scientific evidence that the heart of a fetus begins beating at
about the eighteenth through the twenty-fourth day of fetal development and that this heartbeat,
sometimes described as a "flutter", indicates and is recognized as the existence of life; and
WHEREAS, Today, advances in medical care have greatly improved the chances for
survival of fetuses born preterm; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations hereby recognizes that the existence of a fetal heartbeat or flutter is
evidence of the existence of human life and that advancements in the field of prenatal care are
dramatically improving survival for babies born preterm.