

2010 -- H 7398

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**HONORING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ALL THE MEN
AND WOMEN WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO WORK ON THE
H1N1 SCHOOL CLINICS**

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Azzinaro, Guthrie, Gallison, and Lima

Date Introduced: February 04, 2010

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In the spring of 2009, the World Health Organization confirmed a pandemic
2 due to the rapid spread of illness in so many countries around the world caused by the H1N1
3 Influenza Virus; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supported the
5 effort to protect Americans by providing scientific information on all aspects of H1N1 influenza
6 and additional resources for distributing prevention messages; issued guidance for health care
7 workers, schools, childcare organizations, and businesses; and prepared to supply the H1N1
8 vaccine for 200,000,000 Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH), based on the most
10 current scientific information, applied skills learned through Incident Command Training and
11 utilized the power of multiple communication channels. HEALTH, assured of the willingness of
12 Rhode Islanders to assist with this major effort, established a plan to prevent the spread of illness
13 through increased hand washing, cough/sneeze etiquette, staying home when sick, and providing
14 the first vaccines available to those identified as at high risk: children and pregnant women; and

15 WHEREAS, Vaccinating children and pregnant women would protect them and help
16 reduce the spread of influenza to others. A comprehensive approach was developed and
17 implemented to vaccinate the greatest number of children and pregnant women as quickly as
18 possible; and

19 WHEREAS, HEALTH recognized that the most efficient way to reach the majority of

1 school-aged children was through the school setting. HEALTH engaged with partners who were
2 crucial to providing access to H1N1 Vaccine for 166,000 school-aged children at 421 school sites
3 in Rhode Island over a six-week schedule; and

4 WHEREAS, This plan was supported by partners who gave their time, expertise, and full
5 cooperation, including Rhode Island's elementary and secondary school teachers, Department of
6 Education, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Emergency Management Agency,
7 Superintendents' Association, Principals' Association, Certified School Nurse Teacher
8 Association, Medical Reserve Corps, and volunteers, local Emergency Response personnel,
9 health providers, citizen volunteers, and the media; and

10 WHEREAS, Certified School Nurse Teachers played a multifaceted role, including
11 promoting prevention messages, managing illness at school sites, assisting with outbreak
12 investigations, and planning for the school-based vaccine clinics for the students; and

13 WHEREAS, These combined efforts greatly contributed to achievement of the highest
14 level of childhood vaccine protection in the United States, thus reducing the risk of H1N1
15 influenza for all Rhode Islanders; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations hereby honors and applauds the Rhode Island Department of Health and
18 its voluntary medical corps for the countless hours and dedicated efforts to inoculate and help
19 keep the children and young people of Rhode Island healthy and safe; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized to transmit a
21 duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health.

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