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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7TH THROUGH THE 14TH OF 2020, TO BE
"CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE
ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Shekarchi, Ackerman, Casimiro, and Fellela

Date Introduced: February 11, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of all children throughout our state are of
2 paramount importance to Rhode Island's families and communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Each year approximately 40,000 babies are born in the United States with a
4 congenital heart defect, beginning their lives with one of more than forty identified forms of
5 congenital heart defects; and

6 WHEREAS, Nearly 1 in 100 babies born in the United States are born with a congenital
7 heart defect and more than 50 percent of these children will require at least one invasive surgery
8 in their lifetime; and

9 WHEREAS, Common heart defects include, septal defects, patent ductus arteriosus
10 (PDA), coarctation of the aorta, tetralogy of Fallot, transposition of the great arteries and
11 hypoplastic left heart syndrome as well as many others; and

12 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are among our state's most common birth defects
13 and they are often fatal due to their seriousness, a lack of effective medical intervention options,
14 and the limited availability of infant donor hearts; and

15 WHEREAS, The origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more
16 readily identifiable and the range of surgical options are expanding continuously thanks to
17 doctors' and scientists' diligent research efforts and field experiences that extend our body of
18 knowledge every day; and

19 WHEREAS, There is much to learn about the causes of and effective treatments for

1 congenital heart defects, and it is important for parents, pediatricians, and nurses to recognize the
2 warning signs associated with congenital heart defects among newborns so they may provide
3 proper treatment as early as possible; and

4 WHEREAS, Many of Rhode Island's families and communities are directly or indirectly
5 affected by infant illness and death caused by congenital heart defects; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
7 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims the week of February 7th through the 14th of 2020, to
8 be "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" in our state. We furthermore urge all the citizens
9 of the state to join us in the observance of this event and to recognize and applaud the efforts of
10 doctors and scientists everywhere who work diligently to solve life's medical mysteries and to
11 improve the quality of life for us all; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Norelys Consuegra.

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