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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

**DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY TO BE "NATIONAL TEEN DATING
VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE
ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senator Beatrice A. Lanzi

Date Introduced: February 08, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month reflects
2 our Nation's growing understanding that violence within relationships often begins during
3 adolescence. Each year, about one in four teens report being the victim of verbal, physical,
4 emotional, or sexual violence. Abusive relationships can impact adolescent development, and
5 teens who experience dating violence may suffer long-term negative behavioral and health
6 consequences. Adolescents in controlling or violent relationships may carry these dangerous and
7 unhealthy patterns into future relationships. The time to break the cycle of teen dating violence is
8 now, before another generation falls victim to this tragedy; and

9 WHEREAS, Though many communities face the problem of teen dating violence, young
10 people can be afraid to discuss it, or they may not recognize the severity of physical, emotional,
11 or sexual abuse. Parents and other adults can also be uncomfortable acknowledging that young
12 people experience abuse, or may be unaware of its occurrence. To help stop abuse before it
13 starts, mentors and leaders can stress the importance of mutual respect; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
15 hereby proclaims February 2011 to be "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and
16 Prevention Month". We call upon all Rhode Islanders to support efforts in their communities and
17 schools, and in their own families, to empower young people to develop healthy relationships
18 throughout their lives and to engage in activities that prevent and respond to teen dating violence;
19 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to United States Senator Mike Crapo.

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