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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING AND CELEBRATING "NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK" IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FROM MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2019

Introduced By: Senator Gayle L. Goldin

Date Introduced: May 14, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Every Rhode Islander should have the opportunity to live the healthiest life
2 possible, in the healthiest community possible. One's ZIP code, gender identity, race, ethnicity,
3 language, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, occupation, income, age, or level of
4 education should not determine one's health; and

5 WHEREAS, Up to eighty percent of health outcomes are determined outside the doctor's
6 office, inside our communities. The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and
7 play can shape health in profound and long-lasting ways; and

8 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is committed to
9 advancing health equity, so that every Rhode Islander in every community has a fair and just
10 opportunity for good health; and

11 WHEREAS, Women are the custodians of family health and play a critical role in
12 maintaining the overall well-being of their families and communities. However, because of the
13 many roles women play as primary caregivers, providers, spouses, mothers, and grandmothers, all
14 too often women neglect their own health needs; and

15 WHEREAS, Women of color have experienced glaring health disparities, and have
16 disproportionately higher rates of diabetes, obesity, heart disease, hypertension, and certain forms
17 of cancer; and

18 WHEREAS, Advancing women's health equity requires removing obstacles to health
19 such as poverty, racism, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and

1 lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, and safe environments;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Annually, during National Women's Health Week, millions of women take
4 steps to improve their health. The week serves as a reminder for women to make their health a
5 priority and build positive health habits for life; and

6 WHEREAS, The 20th annual National Women's Health Week kicks off on Mother's Day,
7 May 12, and is celebrated through May 18, 2019. The United States Department of Health and
8 Human Services' Office on Women's Health leads National Women's Health Week to encourage
9 all women to be as healthy as possible; and

10 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health's Health Equity Institute, in
11 partnership with Sista Fire, invites community members across the State to shine a spotlight on
12 the many factors that adversely affect women's health, form partnerships to create a healthier
13 state for all, and foster social and multi-cultural connectedness among women across Rhode
14 Island; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
16 hereby commemorates and celebrates "National Women's Health Week" from May 12 through
17 May 18, 2019, and encourages all Rhode Islanders to support efforts to make women's health and
18 equity a shared priority; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
21 the United States, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island
22 Congressional Delegation, and Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director, Rhode Island
23 Department of Health.

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