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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Hanna M. Gallo

Date Introduced: May 24, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Founded in 1983 by family members of persons with brain injuries, the
2 Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island was born out of an overwhelming need for appropriate
3 services and support to brain injury survivors; and

4 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island is a statewide organization
5 dedicated to providing support, education, advocacy, research, and prevention. Whether you have
6 a brain injury, are a family member or friend of someone affected by a brain injury, are a
7 professional working in this field, or are an interested member of the general public, the Brain
8 Injury Association of Rhode Island hopes to be of service to you; and

9 WHEREAS, 1.4 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year and of
10 these, 50,000 die, 235,000 are hospitalized, and 1.1 million are treated and released from an
11 emergency department. In Rhode Island alone, a brain injury occurs every hour; and

12 WHEREAS, A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is defined as a blow or jolt to the head or a
13 penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head
14 result in a TBI. The severity of such an injury may range from "mild" to "severe," and can result
15 in short or long-term problems with independent function; and

16 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury ranks as the leading cause of death and disability in
17 children and young adults; and

18 WHEREAS, The costs relating to traumatic brain injury in the United States are
19 staggering, and individuals with traumatic brain injury typically face 5 to 10 years of intensive
20 rehabilitation, with cumulative costs exceeding \$56.3 billion annually; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals with traumatic brain injury suffer from serious physical
2 impairments and a variety of perceptual, cognitive, psychiatric, emotional, and behavioral
3 complications, including impaired interpersonal and problem-solving skills, memory loss,
4 decreased thought-processing abilities, speech and seizure disorders, and physical deficits; and

5 WHEREAS, The only cure for traumatic brain injury is prevention, and public awareness
6 is critical to the prevention of brain injury and to enhancing the recovery process of all
7 individuals affected by traumatic brain injury; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 hereby urges the citizens of the state to recognize the consequences of traumatic brain injury and
10 the importance of public understanding; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby honors the Brain Injury Association of Rhode
12 Island for all its help to the citizens of the State of Rhode Island who suffer with brain injuries or
13 have a loved one who is affected by a brain injury; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island.

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