

2024 -- S 2789

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY OF 2024 AS "AMERICAN HEART MONTH" TO RAISE
AWARENESS ABOUT CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF
KNOWING ONE'S CHOLESTEROL

Introduced By: Senator Robert Britto

Date Introduced: March 14, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The American Heart Association defines cholesterol as a waxy, fat-like
2 substance circulating in the blood; and

3 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies two types
4 of cholesterol: low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and high-density lipoprotein
5 cholesterol (HDL-C); and

6 WHEREAS, According to the CDC, nearly 94 million adults in the United States have
7 high cholesterol; and

8 WHEREAS, Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Rhode Island, accounting for
9 more than 2,300 deaths in 2017; and

10 WHEREAS, Inherited risks of heart disease include familial hypercholesterolemia, or
11 FH, and elevated Lp(a) which can be detected and treated early; and

12 WHEREAS, FH is a common, life-threatening genetic disorder affecting the body's
13 ability to remove LDL cholesterol and if left untreated, leads to early heart attack and heart
14 disease; and

15 WHEREAS, Patients with FH or elevated cholesterol levels may need treatment
16 including statins and lipid-lowering medications; and

17 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island the heart disease death rate for Black Rhode Islanders, age
18 35+, is 248 per 100,000 compared to 304 per 100,000 overall; and

19 WHEREAS, February is designated as American Heart Month by the National Institutes

1 of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to raise awareness of heart disease,
2 cholesterol and the importance of screening and treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, The LDL-Action Summit, a consortium of the nation's leading
4 cardiovascular stakeholder groups, seeks to cut cardiovascular events in half by 2030; and

5 WHEREAS, The CDC's Million Hearts program is a national initiative to prevent one
6 million heart attacks and strokes between 2022 and 2027; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby designates February of
8 2024 as "American Heart Month" in order to raise public awareness of heart disease, and
9 cholesterol-related illnesses including Familial Hypercholesterolemia and LP(a); and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby supports raising awareness of heart disease,
11 cholesterol, and lipid-lowering treatments to improve the health of Rhode Island residents; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island State
14 Department of Health dedicates resources to addressing cardiovascular disease and improved
15 cholesterol screenings for Rhode Island residents; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island State
18 Department of Health, and the American Heart Association – Rhode Island.

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