

2021 -- H 6016

LC001851

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL FOR ADMINISTERING VACCINES IN THE SAFEST POSSIBLE METHOD TO PERSONS UNDERGOING IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE THERAPIES

Introduced By: Representatives Fenton-Fung, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: February 26, 2021

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, Currently, individual state authorities are issuing the priority
2 recommendations that guide their state's distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. In Rhode Island,
3 that action is under the direction and leadership of the Department of Health; and

4 WHEREAS, Expert medical groups are recommending that most patients with cancer or
5 a history of cancer should get a COVID-19 vaccine; however, the situation for every person is
6 different and includes the type of cancer a person has (had), if they are still being treated for
7 cancer, and if their immune system is working properly; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the "interim guideline on vaccination for cancer patients"
9 issued by the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the vaccine is safe for use in cancer
10 patients, but in order to protect the fragile health of people undergoing various therapies
11 associated with cancer treatments, certain guidelines and procedures should be adhered to in order
12 to minimize the risk to these patients; and

13 WHEREAS, These guidelines include general considerations for administering the
14 vaccines in the safest possible way, including limiting immunosuppressive therapy patients'
15 exposure to the general public and administering the vaccine at the optimal time in each patients'
16 treatment cycle; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
18 respectfully requests the Department of Health to establish guidelines and protocols for
19 administering vaccines in the safest possible method to persons undergoing immunosuppressive

1 therapies including distributing the vaccines through oncology clinics and coordinating the
2 optimal timing of vaccine administration with the patients treatment cycle; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, and
5 Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health
6 (RIDOH).

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