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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**PROCLAIMING MAY 12TH OF 2010 TO BE "NEURONENDOCRINEIMMUNE
DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Naughton, Fierro, McNamara, and Messier

Date Introduced: April 14, 2010

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, An estimated 20 million children and adults in the United States and
2 millions more people worldwide have been diagnosed with neuroendocrineimmune disorders
3 (NEIDs); and

4 WHEREAS, These conditions include chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), myalgic
5 encephalomyelitis (ME), or myalgic encephalopathy (ME), fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS),
6 chronic or persistent Lyme disease (CLD); Gulf War syndrome/illnesses (GWS/GWI),
7 environmental illnesses (EI) or multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS); and

8 WHEREAS, These complex illnesses are expressed in a multitude of symptoms affecting
9 multiple body systems and for which there is no scientific understanding or explanation, no
10 medical treatment, and significant loss of patient quality of life; and

11 WHEREAS, NEIDs strike women, men, and children of all races and ages, and of all
12 socio-economic groups; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with these illnesses experience “flu-like symptoms”, sore throat;
14 extreme fatigue; widespread pain in muscles, joints, and ligaments; insomnia, muscle stiffness;
15 migraine headaches; the symptoms of restless leg syndrome; numbness and tingling in
16 extremities; respiratory difficulties; debilitating sensitivities to chemicals in the environment;
17 peripheral neuropathy; sleep disturbances; cognitive impairment of memory and concentration,
18 endocrine system abnormalities; and chronic viral infections and bacterial infections; and

19 WHEREAS, NEIDs are as disabling as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, end-stage

1 renal failure, and rheumatoid arthritis, and are as impairing as multiple sclerosis, AIDS, and
2 chemotherapy cancer treatments; and

3 WHEREAS, NEIDs are chronic illnesses that can be life-threatening and are increasing at
4 alarmingly epidemic rates; and

5 WHEREAS, It often takes an average of 3 to 7 years to receive a diagnosis for any of
6 these disorders because medical professionals frequently do not receive adequate training for
7 diagnosis of NEIDs; and

8 WHEREAS, P.A.N.D.O.R.A.—Patient Alliance for Neuroendocrineimmune Disorders
9 Organization for Research & Advocacy, Inc.—is a nonprofit, national charitable organization
10 dedicated to finding a cure for NEIDs and advocating for quality of life for individuals stricken
11 with these illnesses in Florida and beyond; and

12 WHEREAS, P.A.N.D.O.R.A. has joined with other patient empowerment groups and
13 patient organizations worldwide to promote awareness of NEIDs and the need for patient
14 advocacy, to establish healthcare provider NEIDs education programs, to develop and increase
15 accurate diagnostic criteria for these illnesses and to stimulate research that will identify the
16 causes and treatments of these disorders; and

17 WHEREAS, Community knowledge of NEIDs and their impact on patients and their
18 families will promote hope for a better future for people with NEIDs; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
20 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims May 12th of 2010 to be “Neuroendocrineimmune
21 Disorders Awareness Day.” We furthermore recognize the difficulties encountered by these
22 chronically-ill individuals in our state and urge all of our citizens to support the search for a cure
23 and assist those individuals and families who deal with these devastating diseases on a daily
24 basis; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Patient Alliance for
27 Neuroendocrineimmune Disorders Organization for Research & Advocacy, Inc.
28 (P.A.N.D.O.R.A.).

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