

2022 -- H 8224

=====
LC005945
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING MAY 10, 2022, AS "FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi, Alzate, Casey,
Giraldo, Potter, Barros, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: May 10, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In the State of Rhode Island, three out of every four overdose deaths has
2 involved fentanyl, a highly potent opioid that poses a great threat to society and has worsened our
3 overdose crisis; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, since 2009, the
5 number of overdose deaths related to fentanyl has increased in Rhode Island by almost 30-fold;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, There is a dramatic rise in the rates of counterfeit pills, opioids, cocaine, and
8 other substances containing fentanyl in Rhode Island; and

9 WHEREAS, Fentanyl is involved in more deaths of Americans under 50 than any other
10 cause of death, including heart disease, cancer, and all other accidents; and

11 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has made history in passing health-related
12 legislation aimed at supporting individuals and communities dealing with substance use,
13 including legalizing fentanyl test strips to enable individuals to test their substances for fentanyl,
14 establishing a pilot program to create harm reduction centers to prevent drug overdose deaths;
15 and, decriminalizing buprenorphine, a medication used to treat opioid use disorders; now,
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
18 proudly joins partners local and nationwide, in recognizing the first-annual "National Fentanyl
19 Awareness Day" on May 10, 2022, and implementing a day of action to raise public awareness

1 about the urgent problem of people dying at alarming rates due to fentanyl; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That this House hereby supports the recognition and goals of National
3 Fentanyl Awareness Day, which includes increasing individual and public awareness of fentanyl,
4 including the impact of counterfeit pills containing fentanyl on families and young people; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That this House enthusiastically supports the work of the Rhode Island
7 Department of Health and other organizations in their efforts to support individuals and their
8 families impacted by substance use disorders; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this House encourages additional laws, regulations, and programs that
10 increase education and support individuals, their families, and communities impacted by
11 substance abuse disorders; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
14 Health.

=====
LC005945
=====