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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARCIA B. REBACK

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Craven, McNamara, and Serpa

Date Introduced: January 07, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Marcia Reback, a distinguished educational professional and union leader,
2 was born in 1944 in Fall River, Massachusetts, the daughter of the late Ruth Gladstone and
3 William Reback. After her father passed away when she was nine, Marcia and her mother lived in
4 Florida with relatives before moving to Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback was a graduate of Hope High School, the University of Rhode
6 Island and the University of Connecticut. After finishing her studies, she was hired to serve as a
7 teacher at the City of Providence's Veazie Street Elementary School; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback's interest in and passion for educational justice and equality,
9 and improving the quality and pay for teachers, led her to focus on an administrative career, in
10 which she eventually rose to the positions of President of the Providence Teachers Union,
11 President of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, and Vice
12 President of the American Federation of Teachers. She also served as the Vice President of the
13 Rhode Island AFL-CIO; and

14 WHEREAS, For decades, Marcia played an instrumental role in helping to formulate
15 Rhode Island educational policy. Ms. Reback assisted in the drafting of the first charter-school
16 law in Rhode Island, worked tirelessly to establish an equitable state funding formula for schools,
17 and played a vital role in helping to resolve the bitter dispute that occurred between the Central
18 Falls teachers and school officials. In addition, her enthusiastic support of the State's Race to the
19 Top application played a key role in Rhode Island winning a federal grant; and

20 WHEREAS, Even in retirement, Ms. Reback continued to work tirelessly on behalf of

1 social justice and equality issues. She served with distinction on the Labor Relations Board, the
2 Rhode Island Retirees Pension Committee, and on the State Investment Commission. She was a
3 generous supporter of and contributor to the Hope High School Dollars for Scholars fund; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback was an active and passionate supporter of the Democratic Party.
5 She will soon be posthumously honored with the first ever Frank Montanaro, Sr. Award, an
6 award created by the Democratic Party to honor those who have sacrificed on behalf of organized
7 labor; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback deeply valued her relationships with her many cherished
9 friends. She was always there for a friend in need, whether it was offering good advice, a
10 listening ear, or being a great dinner companion. Ms. Reback also enjoyed reading in the
11 company of her cats, Stevie Brown, Samantha, and Miss Kitty, and was an enthusiastic devotee
12 of the music of Frank Sinatra; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback leaves behind Beverly and Frank Prosnitz, Gail Gladstone,
14 Marty Kantrowicz, Jack Friedenn, Harvey Reback, David Reback, Charles Reback and Marlene
15 Haslam; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the Reback Family on the
18 passing of Marcia B. Reback; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Beverly and Frank Prosnitz, Gail Gladstone,
21 Marty Kantrowicz, Jack Friedenn, Harvey Reback, David Reback, Charles Reback and Marlene
22 Haslam.

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