WHEREAS, In the 21st century, broadband Internet is a vitally important tool for
meeting telemedicine, smart city and the social and emotional needs of isolated seniors and those
with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Only fifty-six percent of adults earning less than $30,000 per year have
access to broadband Internet at home, compared to 94 percent for upper-income families, and
only eighteen percent of low-income adults have a device, computer, phone or tablet that can
access the Internet; and,

WHEREAS, Our public housing authorities have many individuals who, lacking access
to the Internet, currently have limited ability to interact with medical professionals, family and
friends, and to stay connected to their community and important social institutions such as
libraries and houses of worship; and

WHEREAS, Many residents of public housing are living on fixed incomes or are low-
wage earners. They struggle daily to provide themselves and their loved ones with the basic
necessities of life, and do not have the resources to access high speed Internet; and

WHEREAS, This lack of connectivity to the wider community leads to isolation and can
exacerbate depression, poorer health, and a reduced quality of life; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Congressional delegation obtain Housing and Urban
Development (HUD) funding to provide high speed Internet access in our public housing authorities by 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, and the Honorable Congressmen David Cicilline and James Langevin.

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