WHEREAS, After more than a year of disrupted learning, technical and building issues, and health worries due to the coronavirus, the festivities celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week on May 3rd through the 7th feel very deserved and needed, but also insufficient; and

WHEREAS, Over the past fourteen months, Rhode Island's teachers have risen to face unprecedented adversity during a school year filled with chaos and challenges, and have helped so many students and families to navigate the pandemic, transition to remote learning, and so much more; and

WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers of school-aged children have surely learned first-hand the difficulties and depth of commitment necessary to keep youngsters motivated and on task and the vital contributions our State's teachers have in the life and future of our children; and

WHEREAS, The dedication, selflessness, and vision of Rhode Island's teachers has helped thousands of children to continue to succeed and grow, and has earned them the gratitude and acknowledgement of a grateful citizenry; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby whole-heartedly thanks, honors and recognizes each and every Rhode Island school teacher as 2021 “Teachers of the Year”; 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 President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, the President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the National
Education Association, and the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.