

2021 -- H 6415

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RHODE ISLAND ON THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Fenton-Fung, Casimiro, Messier, Tanzi,
Kennedy, Ranglin-Vassell, Bennett, and Felix

Date Introduced: June 10, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Founded in 1921, the Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc., is an
2 organization of women "committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of
3 women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained
4 volunteers." The Junior League's purpose "is exclusively educational and charitable"; and

5 WHEREAS, The Junior League welcomes all women who believe in and value its
6 mission. It is committed to having and promoting "inclusive environments of diverse individuals,
7 organizations and communities"; and

8 WHEREAS, The current membership of the Junior League of Rhode Island is 152
9 individuals and their current community focus is "Youth Aging Out of the Foster Care System";
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Over the last ten decades, the members of the Junior League of Rhode
12 Island have generously given their time, talents, and energy in support of many worthy causes.
13 Together, they "have contributed more than one million hours of volunteer service and over 1.5
14 million in fundraising dollars. These volunteer hours and dollars have a combined present-day
15 value of \$25 million, all of which provides direct services to women, children, and struggling
16 families"; and

17 WHEREAS, Since their founding, more than "250 nonprofit organizations have benefited
18 significantly from their collaboration with the Junior League of Rhode Island"; and

19 WHEREAS, The total impact of the Junior League of Rhode Island to the community is

1 immeasurable, as they have touched the lives of many through community projects and have
2 trained thousands of women to become effective community and civic leaders; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the last one hundred years, the Junior League of Rhode Island has
4 played vital roles in the success of many charitable organizations. In the 1930s, during the Great
5 Depression, the Junior League of Rhode Island provided much-needed aid to the Bureau for the
6 Handicapped, the Emergency Unemployment Committee, the Emergency Relief Fund and the
7 Emergency Health Fund. It also focused its energies on the arts and children's theatre, hosting a
8 Concert for Young People and assisting the Children's Theatre; and

9 WHEREAS, During World War II, the Junior League of Rhode Island opened an
10 Officer's Club for Naval Officers stationed in Rhode Island. League members served as hostesses
11 and helped provide entertainment. The grand opening of the club was a gala affair attended by the
12 Governor and commanders stationed in the area, and was a rousing success, serving more than
13 2,000 officers of all service branches stationed in Rhode Island; and

14 WHEREAS, Since World War II, the Junior League has continued to make a difference
15 in Rhode Island in numerous ways. In 1951, the League established a gift shop at the Lying In
16 Hospital, with fifty percent of the profits going to the hospital. In 1961, the Community Arts
17 Committee of the Junior League of Providence partnered with RISD to create a Museum Forum
18 and helped to research, plan and create permanent exhibits; and

19 WHEREAS, Other significant achievements of the Junior League of Rhode Island
20 include the restoration of Betsy Williams Cottage, and joining the community coalition that
21 developed the Ronald McDonald House of Providence for families of sick children. From 1999 to
22 2003, the League conducted Project Hope, a four-year collaboration with St. Mary's Home for
23 Children which raised much-needed money for mentoring, tutoring, life skills classes, and career
24 counseling events. The League also re-built the kitchen at St. Martha's House, and in 2002, was
25 honored and recognized as a St. Mary's Partner in Philanthropy for its volunteer efforts by both
26 St. Mary's and the Association of Fundraising Professionals; and

27 WHEREAS, Since the turn of the century, the Junior League of Rhode Island advocated
28 for a Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment Bill, which was ultimately codified into law. The
29 League also partnered with Crossroads Rhode Island to support the mobile medical van, and
30 donated \$30,000 towards the purchase of a new respite unit. In the early 2010s, the League
31 partnered with Project Autism with its members providing visual aids, respite to parents,
32 donations towards summer camp tuition for several children, and support for the Autism Program
33 at the U.S. Capitol; now, therefore be it

34 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby

1 recognizes and congratulates the Junior League of Rhode Island on the joyous occasion of the
2 100th Anniversary of its founding; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Polly Talbott, President of the Junior League of
5 Rhode Island.

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