WHEREAS, In November of 2019, the state assumed control of the school budget, program and personnel of the Providence School District's 41 schools, an intervention that is extended for at least five years; and

WHEREAS, In December of 2022, the state-run Providence Public School District and the Rhode Island Department of Education announced plans to shut down two elementary schools, Alan Shawn Feinstein at Broad Street and Carl G. Lauro School at the end of the 2023-2024 school year, and the Gilbert Stuart Middle School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year; and

WHEREAS, The three schools to be closed are neighborhood schools, defined as “schools that were assigned according to boundaries drawn up by the school board. Children were assigned a school according to their physical address”; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood schools not only serve families because of the close proximity of the school to their homes, but also serve to support a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, Former Governor Raimondo once stated, “Only by working together to strengthen our neighborhood schools will we be able to create opportunities for everyone to make it in Rhode Island”; and

WHEREAS, In direct conflict to the School Department’s existing policy concerning the need to consult with the affected community prior to making a decision, the pronouncement to
close these three schools was originally made without including members of the Providence
School Board, the Providence Teachers Union, and most importantly, without the support or input
of the students or parents who will be ultimately affected; and

WHEREAS, The reasons cited was that “the schools are old and would cost too much to
fix” and “are part of a larger plan to modernize aging school facilities”; and

WHEREAS, While the State has oversight on the Providence Schools budget, the School
Department maintains managerial responsibility in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department
of Education and the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, Alternatives to these imminent closures, that would potentially lessen the
impact on the children and families, have not been publicly vetted and are essential to the
educational welfare of hundreds of Providence school children and their families; now, therefore

be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
strongly urges the Providence Public School District and the Rhode Island Department of
Education to reverse the decision to close the Alan Shawn Feinstein Elementary School, the Carl
G. Lauro Elementary School, and the Gilbert Stuart Middle School; 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 State Education Commissioner Angélica
Infante-Green, members of the Providence School Board, and Members of the Council on
Elementary and Secondary Education.

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