

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL ON THE JOYOUS OCCASION OF ITS
150TH ANNIVERSARY

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, Metts, Pichardo, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, One hundred and fifty years ago in 1863, the Rhode Island General
2 Assembly enacted the charter that authorized the building of a new hospital to care for the
3 citizens of the state; and

4 WHEREAS, The founders of Rhode Island Hospital were motivated first and foremost by
5 a desire to serve their community by caring for the sick. The hospital's founding in the 1860's
6 occurred at the beginning of the industrial age - a time of expansion in the state. New factories
7 and businesses brought new jobs, a growing economy, and an influx of immigrants. Civil War
8 veterans were returning, and many required medical care. On October 1, 1868, the new hospital
9 opened its doors after five years of planning, and since then, it has been serving generations of
10 Rhode Islanders; and

11 WHEREAS, As the field of medicine began to grow in leaps and bounds, so did Rhode
12 Island Hospital. Through wars, epidemics, and disasters, Rhode Island Hospital has been ready to
13 respond to the ever-shifting needs of the population. When the 1918 influenza epidemic struck,
14 the hospital treated 1,373 patients for the illness. In 1933, when the nation was in the grip of the
15 Great Depression, the hospital's outpatient clinics were inundated, but were able to handle more
16 than 112,000 patient visits. When hurricanes or blizzards hit, Rhode Island Hospital remained
17 open and ready to respond, even providing shelter and meals to those stranded or seeking refuge;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Hospital has experienced its own evolutionary leaps. In

1 addition to many fruitful periods of infrastructure development and the provision of new services,
2 the hospital took major steps toward becoming a regional center of research and learning; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1945, the Institute of Pathology was established to provide laboratory
4 service for area hospitals. By 1948, the trustees approved a change to the hospital's statement of
5 purpose that acknowledged this development, describing the hospital as an institution "dedicated
6 to the care of the sick, education, and research;" and

7 WHEREAS, The hospital today is the major trauma center for southeastern New
8 England, and the principal teaching hospital of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown
9 University; and

10 WHEREAS, By the beginning of the 21st century, Rhode Island Hospital housed a
11 burgeoning research enterprise, funded through substantial grants. Among the grants were several
12 from the National Institutes of Health, which established the Centers of Biomedical Research
13 Excellence. The centers are engaged in advanced research on the role of stem cells in cancer, the
14 molecular and cellular events involved in the development of cancer, and the prevention and
15 treatment of skeletal joint diseases; and

16 WHEREAS, The new century also saw acceleration in the number of "firsts" for Rhode
17 Island Hospital in the use of highly sophisticated new technologies, performance of complex
18 surgeries, and provision of the most advanced care in areas such as oncology, cardiology,
19 pediatrics, and neurology; and

20 WHEREAS, In order to create the highest quality programs in the region and to provide
21 patients with the latest, most leading-edge technology available, Rhode Island Hospital is
22 committed to harnessing the power of collaboration to create a world-class academic medical
23 center; and

24 WHEREAS, Drawing upon the knowledge and expertise of many of the area's most
25 accomplished physicians, Rhode Island Hospital is now a driving force in the evolution to
26 medical centers of excellence, such as the Cardiovascular Institute and Comprehensive Cancer
27 Center; and

28 WHEREAS, These key programs of our major academic medical center promise to
29 deliver the best care available and to benefit the patients of our community and our region far into
30 the future; and

31 WHEREAS, Today, Rhode Island Hospital is a regional powerhouse in medicine and
32 research, but it stays true to its historical legacy. The hospital that once had a sign at the entrance
33 to the outpatient department reading "Poor Only" still provides more than \$46 million annually in
34 uncompensated care for people in need; and

1 WHEREAS, Although the hospital bears little resemblance to the original that was
2 established in 1868, the founders would be delighted to know that their values - commitment to
3 the community, dedication to excellence, and courage to innovate - remain at the heart of their
4 hospital and have guided Rhode Island Hospital admirably for a century and a half; now,
5 therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
7 hereby congratulates Rhode Island Hospital on the joyous occasion of its 150th Anniversary; and
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy to Timothy J. Babineau, M.D., President of Rhode Island Hospital.

=====
LC02046
=====