

2020 -- H 8167

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

THANKING THE LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF READY TO LEARN PROVIDENCE FOR
MORE THAN SEVENTEEN YEARS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR OUR STATE'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Casimiro, Kennedy, McNamara, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: December 14, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the House Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Founded in 2003, Ready to Learn Providence (R2LP) has endeavored to
2 improve the education and health of young children and to close the achievement gap between
3 low-income children and their more affluent peers, by working with the adults who play the
4 largest role in their lives; and

5 WHEREAS, The organization's noble mission has focused its efforts on teaching center-
6 and home-based educators, in our State's most distressed neighborhoods, the essential life skills
7 that the children in their care will need in order to succeed in school and ultimately in life; and

8 WHEREAS, To date, R2LP has trained more than 3,500 early childhood educators in
9 both English and Spanish, and now also offers many of their services statewide; and

10 WHEREAS, With outstanding programs such as Ready for K! and Mind in the Making,
11 R2LP has built a foundation for children's future development, providing a strong base for
12 lifelong learning and learning abilities, including cognitive and social development; and

13 WHEREAS, The Ready for K! program was specifically designed for children who have
14 not attended a preschool program, and Mind in the Making "is an eight-session course for adults
15 that covers the seven essential life skills all children need to succeed in school." In partnership
16 with the Providence Public School Department, Mind in the Making has coached and supported
17 more than 2,500 family members and staff at the city's elementary schools; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition, R2LP has offered professional development courses to early
19 childhood educators at our State universities including, The Incredible Years, I Am Moving, I

1 Am Learning, and, most recently, Providence Talks; and

2 WHEREAS, Throughout its existence, R2LP has been blessed with outstanding leaders
3 and individuals whose contributions have resulted in the programs' overwhelming success
4 including, the organization's founding Director, Joyce Butler, Director Leslie Gell, who has been
5 at the helm for more than 15 years, the best outreach Director and Educator, Tania Quezada, who
6 has served as Director of Family and Community Partnerships, and Magda Ortiz, a superlative
7 Administrator, to name but a few of the incredibly dedicated staff of R2LP; and

8 WHEREAS, Ready To Learn Providence has been a true champion in providing children
9 with care-givers who will never give up on them, and who understand how to help them become
10 the best that they can possibly be. Sadly, due to the world's current medical and financial crisis,
11 R2LP will be closing its doors; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby thanks the leadership, staff, and
13 all who have entered the programs of Ready To Learn Providence for improving the quality of
14 early education for our state's most vulnerable children; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Joyce Butler, Leslie Gell, Tania Quezada, and
17 Magda Ortiz.

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