

2014 -- S 2836

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE CHILD OPPORTUNITY ZONE NETWORK ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Felag, Lombardi, Paiva Weed, and Metts

Date Introduced: March 27, 2014

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The Child Opportunity Zones (COZ), Rhode Island's community school
2 initiative, have been serving the children of the State of Rhode Island in ten districts across the
3 state: Bristol Warren, Central Falls, Cranston, Middletown, Newport, North Kingstown,
4 Pawtucket, Providence, Westerly and Woonsocket, for 20 years, supporting the whole child, their
5 families and teachers for the common goal of improving the academic success of our young
6 people; and

7 WHEREAS, Annually, the COZ network impacts the lives of more than 36,000 students
8 through after-school, summer and youth development programs; expanded learning opportunities;
9 parent and family involvement; community engagement; early childhood initiatives; adult and
10 family literacy; health and mental health wellness, and outreach and referral for basic needs; and

11 WHEREAS, Applying the national community school model, while uniquely designed to
12 respond to the needs of their individual students, the COZ network creates partnerships among
13 families, schools and the community to coordinate comprehensive academic, social and health
14 services for students and their families that result in improved educational outcomes for children;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Studies continue to show that student attendance is consistently better in a
17 community school environment; and further, research finds that community schools are a
18 promising strategy for improving student outcomes by leveraging community partnerships and
19 creating supportive environments at school, which is critical to developing academic motivation,

1 confidence, overall well-being and life-long success; and

2 WHEREAS, As a result of the last two decades of success, the COZ network has
3 established a statewide partnership, the Rhode Island Partnership for Community Schools
4 (www.RIPCS.org), only the second statewide network in the nation, to support best practices and
5 encourage the use of the community school model for all students across our state; and

6 WHEREAS, In supporting the work of the COZ network, the General Assembly assures
7 the growth of a stronger, healthier generation who will be ready to meet the demands of a rapidly
8 changing world and contribute in a positive way to our society; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
10 hereby recognizes and congratulates the Child Opportunity Zone network and its partners for the
11 past 20 years of unprecedented success for our children; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby encourages superintendents and principals across
13 the state to promote the continued growth of the community school model for the benefit of all
14 Rhode Island students; 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 members of the Rhode Island Congressional
17 Delegation.

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